

11-6-2006

Current, November 06, 2006

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, November 06, 2006" (2006). *Current (2000s)*. 305.
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The Current

November 6,
2006

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1199

ELECTION DAY

Don't Forget to Vote Tuesday, Nov. 7

The 2006 midterm elections will be decided by voters this Tuesday. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are registered, we encourage you to vote this year.

INSIDE



STL International Film Fest Kicks Off

The annual film festival will run Nov. 9 through Nov. 19. The Touhill will play host to one of the festival's screenings, "Judith Simon."

See page 8

National Novel Writing Month Contest

The seventh annual contest challenges writers to produce a 50,000-word novel by Nov. 30.

See page 6



'Conversations with God' adds to realm of spiritual cinema

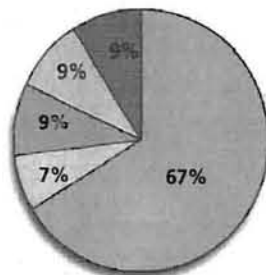
See page 9

ON THE WEB

The Current online.com

Web poll results:

Are you going to vote in the elections next week?



Definitely.

Maybe.

Nope.

What's the point?

I'm not registered to vote.

This week's question:
How do you think the UMSL basketball teams will do this season?

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University of Missouri • St. Louis

MyGateway

Students required to change SSO password

How to Change Your MyGateway Password

- Log into the MyGateway site, mygateway.ums.edu, using your current username and password.
- At the bottom left hand side of your MyGateway Home page, look for a box titled, "Tools."
- Click on the "Personal Information" link and click on the "Change Password" link.
- Click the "Change Your Password" link on the left hand side and type in your SSO ID, your old password and new password.

BY COURTNEY HABERER

Staff Writer

Students will be required to change their Single Sign On passwords in an effort to improve user security and to meet security audit requirements of campus Information Technology Services.

Students were sent an e-mail on Oct. 30, notifying them that "UMSL ITS will be implementing a requirement for all students to change their SSO account password every 180 days."

According to the campus' ITS department, this change is necessary for better online security. Faculty and staff have been required to change their passwords every 180 days for several years now.

Associate Vice Chancellor for IT Jim Tom said it has been an oversight not having students changing their passwords regularly. He said the security issues are mainly due to external auditors hired by the UM

system, but he said some incidents have already occurred where other people have figured out some students' passwords.

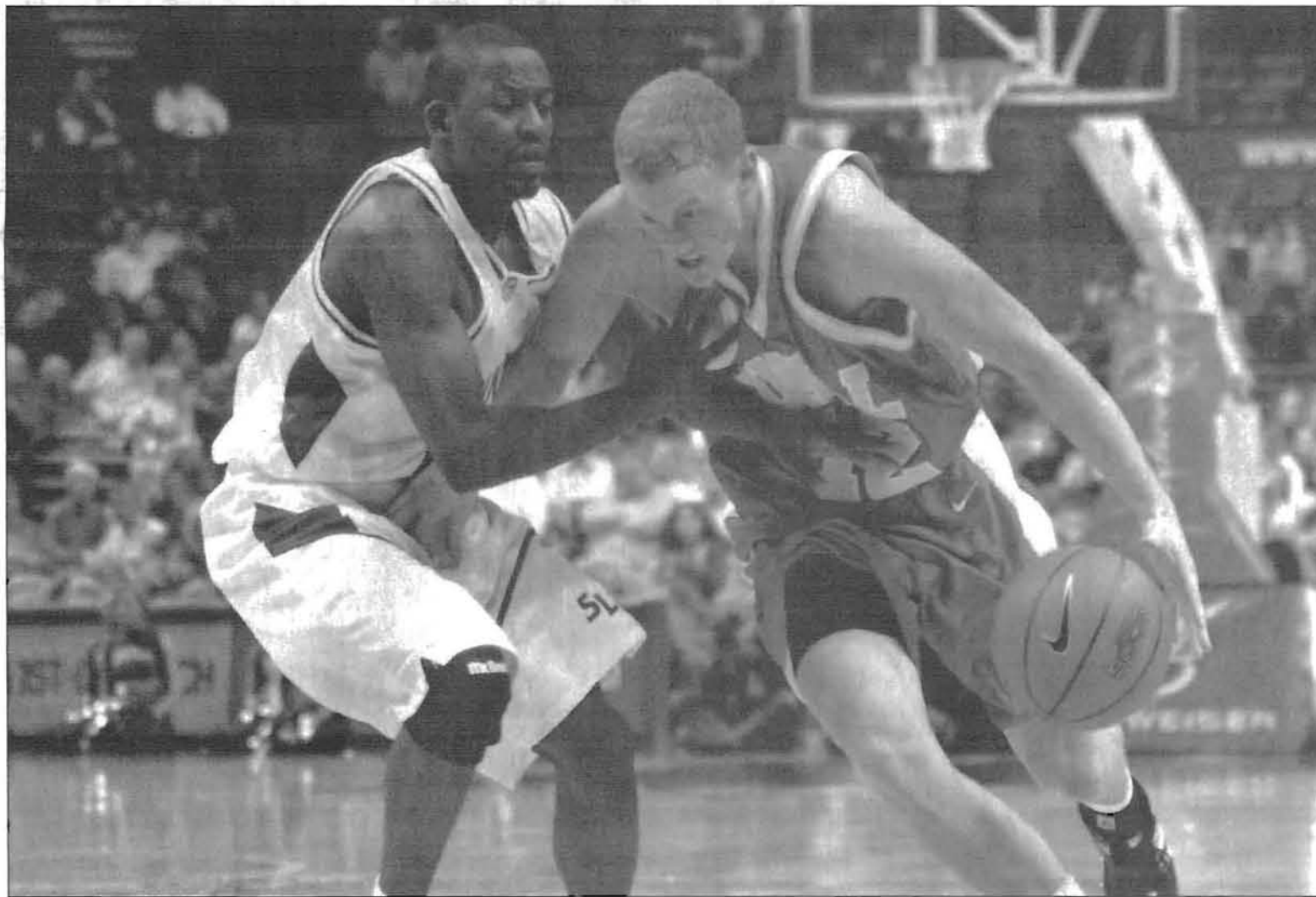
According to Tom, passwords that are not regularly changed are "easily broken." Student password changes were not required previously because students were unable to access a large amount of personal information through their SSO ID and password. "Faculty and staff currently get access to a lot of systems that students don't," he said.

However, new student information systems are in development for the future and they will require the SSO password. These systems will give students access to sensitive records about themselves.

Emily Ewings, senior, theater, said the changes are a "necessary evil," but an inconvenience. "People like stability and there is no stability in changing your password every 6 months," she said.

See MYGATEWAY, page 7

BASKETBALL WITH THE BILLIKENS



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Brett Ledbetter, forward for the Rivermen basketball team, drives to the basket during a preseason game against St. Louis University on Friday night at the Scottrade Center, which the Rivermen lost 84-50. To read more about the game, see SPORTS, page 10.

Indonesian Night gives guests a real taste of Southeast Asian culture

BY MABEL SUEN

Features Editor

Indonesia is a nation in the Southeast Asian archipelago consisting of 18,110 islands. It is the world's fourth most populous nation and the most populous Muslim-majority nation. However, even with such prevalence in the world's populace, not many people are familiar with Indonesia's rich cultural traditions.

For the past three years, the UM-St. Louis Indonesian Student Association, in collaboration with other Indonesians from the community and area schools such as Washington University, Saint Louis University and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, came together to create a night of cultural oasis.

On Nov. 4, the ISA hosted their third annual event entitled "Indonesian Night 2006: A Journey through Exotic Diversity" in UM-St. Louis' Pilot House.

"The goal of the event is to introduce our culture to the community here in St. Louis," said Edhy Rahardjo, graduate student, information systems and member of ISA.

According to the program for "Indonesian Night 2006, the event 'promotes the Indonesian culture by increasing awareness and recognition amongst those who are less acquainted with our tradition while preserving and

encouraging further manifestations of Indonesian art."

The schedule for the evening consisted of a variety of cultural performances, a fashion show of traditional Indonesian garb modeled by international students from different countries, and even a traditional food tasting.

One of the performances, "Wayang Kulit," demonstrated an ancient tradition of storytelling using intricately designed shadow puppets. Another displayed Pencak Silat, a Southeast Asian martial art. Other exhibitions throughout the evening included folk songs, dances and a traditional wedding ceremony procession.

Rahardjo said that the event makes him feel very much at home because of the performances related to his culture and especially the traditional foods.

"There are no Indonesian restaurants in St. Louis," he explained. "This would be the best place to taste our food and also to see how we perform Indonesian dances, folk songs and cultural exhibitions like shadow puppets."

"We kind of miss Indonesian food and love this event because we can taste our own food," said Reza Arifani, graduate student, finance and current ISA president.



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Freddy Cahyadi, graduate student, mathematics, is declared the winner during the Pencak Silat demonstration (Indonesian Martial Arts). He fought Anggit Subroto from SIU-Edwardsville during Indonesian Night in the Pilot House on Saturday, Nov. 4.

UMSL reacts to No.1 crime ranking with skepticism

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

Design Editor

Two weeks ago, St. Louisans were celebrating the fact that they have the No. 1 team in baseball.

Last week, when the city was ranked No. 1, the reaction from St. Louisans was different because the city was ranked the most dangerous in the nation.

The Kansas-based publisher Morgan Quitno Press released a report Oct. 30 naming St. Louis the most dangerous city to live in the United States. Morgan Quitno, a private research and publishing company, annually releases reports in book form comparing states and cities in different subjects, including crime, education and health care.

This marks the 13th edition of their crime ranking, and the second time the publisher has ranked St. Louis as most dangerous. The city was also named most dangerous in 2002.

This past year, "St. Louis reported the highest violent crime and property crime rates among cities of 75,000 or more population," according to a press release from Morgan Quitno.

While representatives from Morgan Quitno did not comment on the methodology behind the rankings, the company's Web site, www.morganquitno.com, states the ranking is "based on a city's rate for six basic crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft." Final 2005 statistics, released by the FBI on September 18, 2006, were used to determine the rankings.

Most of the UM-St. Louis community reacted to the news with skepticism or surprise.

"After taking social-stats, I find UMSL has educated me too well to take these numbers seriously," said Daniel Cohen, graduate student, gender studies.

David Castro, UM-St. Louis alumnus, and resident of St. Louis city, said he felt proud because "I live in the most dangerous city and nothing has happened to me."

St. Louisans also responded on the Internet with a group on Facebook.com called "I am so proud to be living in the most dangerous city in the U.S.," which about 160 members as of Friday evening.

UM-St. Louis criminology professors took the findings with a grain of salt.

See DANGEROUS, page 3

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

STEALING OVER \$500 • 242 BENTON HALL

A computer projector was stolen from one of the Instructional Technology classrooms sometime during the morning hours.

SUNDAY, OCT. 29

STEALING UNDER \$500 • 104 STADLER HALL

Between 7 a.m. and noon on Saturday Oct. 28, a computer wireless access terminal was stolen from this room.

TRESPASSING • 4320 WALKER LANE

A window was found open on an abandoned house that the University owns, and upon investigation the police found clothing on the back porch.

Later it was determined that a suspect who ran from the area was apparently keeping his belongings there and possibly living temporarily on the back porch.

The house was not entered, and the suspect was able to elude capture.

MONDAY, OCT. 30

PROPERTY DAMAGE/TAMPERING WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE • PARKING LOT Q

Sometime between 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. person(s) unknown broke out the victim's car window and tampered with the ignition in an attempt to steal the vehicle.

The vehicle was not stolen. However, the ignition was tampered with to the point that the victim could not start the car with the key.

TUESDAY, OCT. 31

BURGLARY/STEALING • 7900 NATURAL BRIDGE

Sometime during the previous four days, a vacant building which is owned by the University and slated for demolition was broken into and some copper items were stolen from inside.

PROPERTY DAMAGE • PARKING LOT V

The victim reported that sometime between noon and 4 p.m. on Oct. 30, person(s) unknown removed/broke out the window to a personally owned vehicle. The victim had already covered the window with plastic, and stated that it appeared that nobody entered the vehicle.

**STEALING OVER \$500 •
MARILLAC HALL ROOM G08B**

An Instructional Technology employee discovered an entire Macintosh computer system stolen from a classroom. The computer was stolen sometime between the hours of 6:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The computer was secured to the wall with a cable, and it was apparently cut with a pair of bolt cutters.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1

ATTEMPTED STOLEN AUTO • PARKING LOT KK

While conducting a parking lot check in the area of the residence halls on South Campus, a midnight shift officer discovered a parked vehicle with its hazard lights flashing.

A further check revealed a window was broken out and the ignition had been tampered with.

After notifying the owner it was determined that the car was parked on the parking lot at 12:30 p.m. A witness observed the flashers on at 10:30 p.m., however no one was around. The victim indicated that nothing was missing from inside of the car.

THURSDAY, NOV. 2

**TAMPERING WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE •
PARKING LOT A**

Sometime between 12:20 p.m. and 2:55 p.m. person(s) unknown broke out a rear driver's side vent window and tampered with the dashboard area around the steering column.

The victim reported that a jacket, two pairs of shoes, a Cardinals baseball cap, and three CDs were stolen from inside.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes.

Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made, and we will print them in next week's issue.

To report a correction, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by email

SCREAMING SCENE



Carrie Fasiska • Staff Photographer

Dan Hardin pretends to cut open James Wu during the Annual Haunted House at the Bel-Ridge Municipal Complex hosted by Sigma Tau Gamma and the Bel-Ridge Police on Tuesday, October 31.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Chemistry Colloquium

Ned Bowden, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, will discuss "Synthesis and Self-assembly of Comb Block Copolymer: New Photonic Materials From Old Polymers" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall.

Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The colloquium is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Call 5311 for more information.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Latin Artwork Exhibit Opens

"Accumulated Material: Contemporary Altares and Ofrendas" opens today and runs through Nov. 18 at Gallery Visio, 190 Millennium Student Center.

The exhibit explores the Afro-Caribbean and Mestiza tradition of altar and ofrenda making.

There will be a reception at Gallery Visio from 4 to 7 p.m. today to kick off the opening of the exhibit. For hours or more information call 7922.

Sinatra Sounds

Jim Widner, director of Jazz studies at UM-St. Louis, and his Big Band group will be joined by Frank Sinatra sound-alike Steve Lippia for an evening of Sinatra music in "Simply Sinatra" at 7:30 p.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill.

UM-St. Louis students receive a 25 percent discount and UM-St. Louis employees and alumni a 10 percent discount on two tickets with valid identification at the ticket office.

Call 4949 for more information or to reserve tickets.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Wallyball Registration Deadline

Today is the deadline to register for the intramural wallyball tournament, to be played Nov. 9 at the Mark Twain/Athletic & Fitness Center. Men's and coed divisions are offered. Register at Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain.

"Booth!" Auditions

Auditions will be held for the new musical "Booth!" from 7 to 10 p.m. today and tomorrow in the Whitaker Room at the Touhill. Actors, singers, and dancers are needed for the production, which focuses on the life of Edwin Booth.

Callbacks will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Nov. 10. Those auditioning should come with a prepared, three-minute monologue and song. Call 4572 for more information about the auditions.

Discussion on 'Reconciliation'

Linda Biehl, advocate for restorative justice, will discuss "Reconciliation: A Choice You Can Live With" at 11 a.m. in the Student Government Chamber in the Millennium Student Center.

Biehl, along with Ntobeko Peni and Easy Nofemela, two of the men responsible for the death of Biehl's daughter, Amy, in South Africa in 1993, present their story of reconciliation and growth over the last ten years.



Jim Widner, director of Jazz studies at UM-St. Louis, and his Big Band group will be joined by Frank Sinatra sound-alike Steve Lippia for an evening of Sinatra music in "Simply Sinatra" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evening in the Anheuser-Busch performance Hall at the Touhill.

Arianna String Quartet Performs

The Arianna String Quartet will perform two string quartet works by Beethoven at 7:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis.

Admission is free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors.

The concert is sponsored by the Department of Music. Call 4507 for tickets or more information.

Business Graduate School Information Session

The UM-St. Louis College of Business Administration's Graduate Office will conduct an information session at 4:30 p.m. in 401 Social Sciences & Business Building.

The session is geared toward UM-St. Louis undergraduates who are considering graduate studies in accounting, business administration or information systems.

The Graduate Office staff will be on hand to answer questions about the college's MBA, IMBA, PMBA, MAcc, and MSIS programs, as well as graduate certificates.

The session is open to all UM-St. Louis students, but reservations are requested. Call 5885 for more information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Male vs. Female Summit

The Helping Hands Student Organization Presents "The Showdown" Male vs. Female Summit from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center.

There will be free food. Anyone is welcome to attend. This event is sponsored by Helping Hands Student Organization, University Program Board, Associated Black Collegians, Sista Keeper, Hotep, and the Black Student Nurses Association.

IS Mentoring Program

"A Day in the Life" will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Computer Center Building Lobby - Grace's

Mentors from different paths in Information Systems will talk about their jobs by focusing on their typical and atypical days, their skills, and what makes it special for them.

Food and beverages will be provided. Anyone is welcome to attend.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Byzantine Studies Conference

The 32nd annual Byzantine Studies Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. today and runs through 12:30 p.m. Nov 12 in the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

Byzantinists from around the world will meet to discuss current research on all aspects of Byzantine history and culture. The conference will include exhibitions of Byzantine art and icons, as well as the presentation of numerous papers and several panel discussions.

The fee for the conference is \$115. Call 5974 for more information.

Yeatman Lecture

Daniel W. Pfaff, professor emeritus of journalism at The Pennsylvania State University in Centre County, Pa., will discuss his book, "No Ordinary Joe: the Life of Joseph Pulitzer III," during the 2006 James E. Yeatman Lecture from noon to 1 p.m. at the Noonday Club, One Metropolitan Square, 211 N. Broadway in St. Louis.

The fee to attend is \$35 for Mercantile or Noonday Club members, \$40 for the general public. Call 7240 or 7242 for information.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Monday Noon Series

Satirical printmaker Tom Huck will discuss his work as it relates to the traditions of Goya, Posada, Daumier and Dürer at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center.

Monday Noon Series events are free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Center for the Humanities. Light refreshments will be served. Call 5699 for more

The Current

The University of Missouri—St. Louis
Student Newspaper Since 1966

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ON THE WEB

The Current

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters **must** be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students **must** include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff **must** include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. *The Current* reserves the right to deny letters.

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AFFILIATIONS



SGA LEED resolution encourages 'green' eco-friendly buildings

By JASON GRANGER

Staff Writer

The Student Government Association passed a resolution Friday, Oct. 13, designed to encourage UM-St. Louis to adopt eco-friendly building practices.

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The United States Green Builders Council, according to the SGA resolution, created LEED standards.

The resolution advises the UM System to make all new buildings LEED accredited, and is being circulated throughout all four campus SGAs.

Thomas Helton, SGA vice president said adopting the practice would be good for the university, not only as a money-saving enterprise, but public relations as well.

"It will put our campus in the spotlight in Missouri and nationwide," he said. "There are a couple of big things students look for when going to college now. A lot of new students are activists and environmentalists and like seeing 'green' buildings."

UM-St. Louis already has one green building, as a LEED approved building is called, being built on campus. The Express Scripts building will have many LEED features once it is completed.

According to Helton, UM-Kansas City and UM-Rolla also have passed the resolution at their respective campuses, and he expects UM-Columbia to pass the resolution soon.

These resolutions come after an original UM System task force initially decided not to recommend LEED building, due to documentation costs, which could run one to two percent higher.

However, Helton said that slight increase is relatively small in comparison to what the universities could have in the long run by implementing green buildings on campus.

"Studies have shown that if you use LEED building standards, you can save 10 percent in energy costs down the road," Helton said. "That's huge."

Green buildings, according to Helton, incorporate many different environmentally friendly components to achieve LEED accreditation, which is based on a point scale.

LEED buildings can have green roofs (plants on the roof); more windows to allow natural light, less water use by instituting low-flow toilets and energy efficient electric lights, according to Helton, as well as many other building techniques that have less impact on the environment.

"It's the ethical choice. I think it's the right thing to do," Helton said. "It's pretty much, 'why not?' There's no reason not to do it."

SGA President Nick Koechig said he also is in favor of going to LEED accredited buildings on campus.

"I think it's providing a great opportunity for the campus," he said. "LEED accredited buildings would provide great opportunities for UM-St. Louis."

The schools run the gamut from public to private universities, from state schools to Ivy League schools, according to information provided by the USGBC.

Schools such as Arizona State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Emory University, the University of California and Harvard University all have adopted LEED or LEED based guidelines for their new buildings.

Helton said a team of students, which includes him, will be setting up an information kiosk in the Express Scripts building to help educate students and people outside the university about green buildings in an effort to promote LEED based initiatives and buildings.

"It's just another way we're partnering with Express Scripts Incorporated," Helton said.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST



Mike Sherwin • Managing Editor

Tiffany Herberger, junior, business administration, models her costume, "White Trash," for the judges during a Halloween contest sponsored by the University Program Board in the Nosh on Tuesday afternoon.

DAINGEROUS, from page 1

"Most criminologists pay no attention to this report since the comparisons and rankings that are made by this company are too crude to be of any value," said Janet Lauritsen, criminology and criminal justice professor.

"I don't know a single criminologist who thinks this ranking is valid," Richard Rosenfeld, CCI professor, said.

When the report came out last year, Rosenfeld wrote a commentary in *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, responding to what he felt were inaccuracies to the report. "One point I made is that such rankings do not take account of changes over time in crime

rates. Serious violent crime in the city of St. Louis has dropped more than 50 percent over the past 15 years," he said.

Rosenfeld said the most important reason why Morgan Quitno's report is flawed is that it compares cities' crime rates without taking into account the size of the metropolitan area. "The effective population at risk extends well beyond the borders of the central city," he said. Morgan Quitno also ranks metropolitan areas for crime, and St. Louis ranks 125th.

Lt. Al Wirt of the UM-St. Louis Police Department did not want to comment because he was unsure of

the methodology behind Morgan Quitno's rankings. However, to deter crime, like all police departments, he said "we depend on the citizens to help because we don't have that many officers."

Some local radio stations even offered crime deterrents last weekend after the report came out. FM Z107.7 allowed listeners a chance to win a safety kit, that included a flashlight, a whistle and SABRE defense key chain sprays, packed with 25 shots of red pepper and CS tear gas, the same deterrent products used by the St. Louis County Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Top 10 Overall Safest and Most Dangerous Cities

Safest Cities

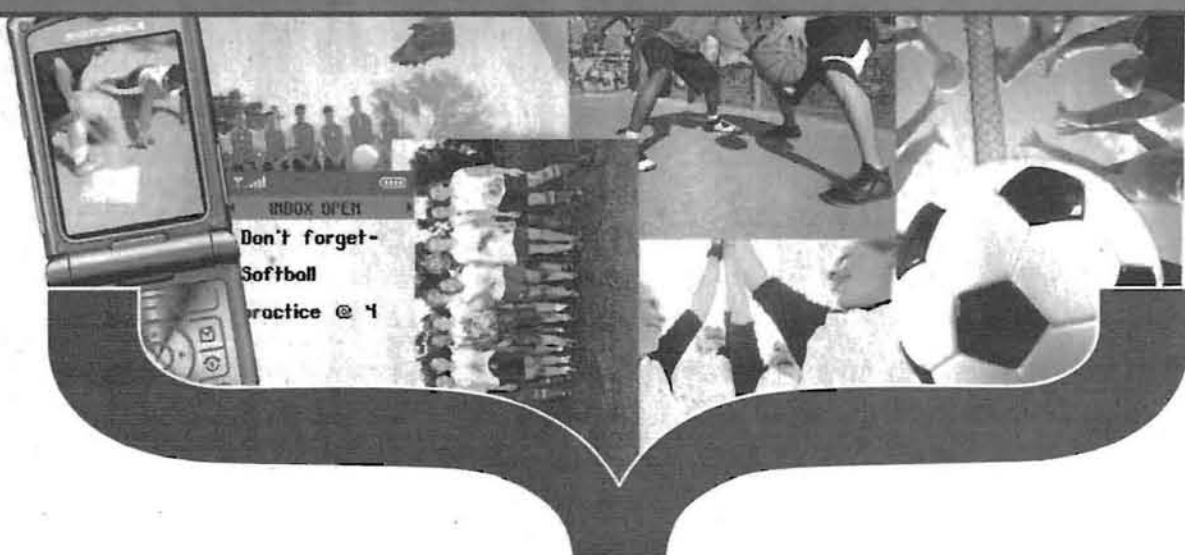
1. Brick, N.J.
2. Amherst, N.Y.
3. Mission Viejo, Calif.
4. Newton, Mass.
5. Troy, Mich.
6. Colonie, N.Y.
7. Irvine, Calif.
8. Cary, N.C.
9. Greece, N.Y.
10. Coral Springs, Fla.

Most Dangerous

1. St. Louis, Mo.
2. Detroit, Mich.
3. Flint, Mich.
4. Compton, Calif.
5. Camden, N.J.
6. Birmingham, Ala.
7. Cleveland, Ohio
8. Oakland, Calif.
9. Youngstown, Ohio
10. Gary, Ind.

Source: Morgan Quitno Press

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



U.S. Cellular® gets me... so I can always get the score.

40-Yard Dash

Date: 10/3
Time: Tues 1p-4p
Place: MT Rec Field
Sign up: Drop In
Division: M & W

Racquetball

Date: 10/23-10/27
Time: Mon-Fri Flexible
Place: MT Racquetball Courts
Sign up: 10/17
Division: M & W

Indoor Soccer

Date: 10/25-5/6
Time: Wed 7p-10p
Place: MT Gym
Sign up: 10/17
Division: CoEd & M

Volleyball

Date: 10/18
Time: Wed 7p-10p
Place: MT Gym
Sign up: 10/17
Division: M & W

Floor Hockey

Date: 10/24-12/5
Time: Mon 7p-10p
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up: 10/17
Division: CoEd & M

Wallyball

Date: 11/9
Time: Thurs 6:30p-9p
Place: MT Racquetball Courts
Sign up: 11/7
Division: CoEd Triples

DemoBall/Laser Tag

Date: 10/19
Time: Thurs TBA
Place: St. Charles
Sign up: 10/17
Division: Open

Volleyball

Date: 10/23-5/4
Time: Tues 7p-10p
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up: 10/17
Division: CoEd II

Paintball

Date: 11/4
Time: Sat 9a-4p
Place: Off Campus
Sign up: TBA 11/1
\$10 per student



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NEWS BRIEFS

Local ASUM chapter to lose board member

The St. Louis chapter of ASUM stands to lose one voting board member and at least two ex-officio members, according to changes in the ASUM constitution that were approved earlier this month.

At ASUM's last board meeting in St. Louis on Oct. 14, members discussed constitution changes. "The biggest changes in the constitution are that all of the campuses are going to three board members," said David Dodd, St. Louis executive board member for ASUM.

Previously, the number of representatives from each campus was based on student population. UM-Columbia has six, UM-St. Louis has four, UM-Kansas City has three and UM-Rolla has two.

Dodd said ASUM members have not discussed how the cut would take place.

At this time, Dodd, along with UM-St. Louis students Daniel Flees, junior, psychology; Carlo Manaois, junior, psychology, and Tanzeena Hossain, senior, psychology, serve the local ASUM board of directors.

Dodd said the new constitution changes also call for a "drastic" reduction in the number of ex-officio members, including positions held by SGA President Nick Koechig and SGA Vice President Thomas Helton. Currently, ASUM has 18 ex-officio members.

The changes will be further discussed at the next ASUM board of directors meeting on Nov. 11 at UM-Rolla.

Professor earns award for performance art series

Barbara Harbach, professor of music, was awarded the Frank H. Laas Memorial Award from the Missouri Citizens for the Arts.

On Oct. 25, Harbach received the award for her performance series, Women in the Arts 2005, a multi-venue series that celebrated female composers, musicians, writers and artists, from the past and present. She was given the award at MCA's Annual Meeting and Arts Advocacy Award Reception that was held in Columbia, Mo.

According to the MCA Web site, the award "celebrates individuals who carry on the great tradition of providing artistic opportunities and

education to all people," a goal of Laas, the award's namesake.

At the meeting, Joan Lipkin, founding artistic director of That Uppity Theatre Company in St. Louis, also received a Frank Laas Award. Lipkin, according to the website, has "made a tremendous impact on inclusive arts education and accessibility throughout her career."

Professor receives lifetime achievement award

Marvin Berkowitz, Sanford N. McDonnell endowed professor of character education, received the Character Education Partnership's Sanford N. McDonnell Lifetime Achievement Award during the partnership's annual conference in Washington.

CEP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian, coalition of organizations and individuals committed fostering effective character education in our nation's K-12 schools. The award, named for McDonnell, chair emeritus of CEP, recognizes individuals who have dedicated their careers to character education, which is a national movement encouraging schools to create environments that foster ethical, responsible and caring young people.

Berkowitz, a nationally recognized leader in character education, joined UM-St. Louis' College of Education in 1999. He is co-director of the Center for Character and Citizenship at the University. The center is a partnership between the campus and CHARACTERplus, a program operated by the Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis.

The Current honored at ACP Convention

The Current received the Associated Collegiate Press' second place award for "Best in Show" for four-year non-daily broadsheet college newspapers on Oct. 29 at the organization's 85th annual convention held in downtown St. Louis.

The last time The Current received an award from ACP was in 2001, when the paper's online edition was given a Pacemaker finalist nomination.

The first place award went to The Nevada Sagebrush, the student paper of the University of Nevada - Reno.

OUR OPINION

Crime awareness depends on accurate crime reporting

So where are the statistics?

St. Louis was named the most dangerous city in America by Morgan Quitno for the second time in four years. Apparently, UM-St. Louis exists in a bubble that crime has failed to infiltrate. In the past two weeks, there has been only one reported crime on campus.

This campus has over 15,000 students in attendance, with hundreds of faculty and staff here daily. So where is the crime? It seems highly unlikely that the good folks at UM-St. Louis all of a sudden decided to be nice to each other. This is not to say UM-St. Louis is a haven for gang activity or the Mafia. But there are consistently crimes such as thefts under, and above, \$500, along with car thefts, break-ins and assaults.

The Current runs a weekly feature on page two detailing any and all crimes that happen on campus in a given week. However, when a reporter went last Thursday to pick up crime information, he was told the information was not available because the person who compiles that information was sick. What?

Was there no one else available who could go through the relatively simple task of compiling crime on campus? Was there an outbreak of the Avian Flu centered directly in UM-St. Louis' police department?

Of course, there is the possibility that there was no crime on campus. It is entirely possible that everyone on campus was so thrilled over the World Series victory for the base-

Warning. Statistics not provided here.

-UMSL Police

in Bethlehem, Penn. was found raped and murdered in her dorm room. Her parents later found out that there had been a rash of major crimes in and around campus the preceding year which the University did not publicize.

Additionally, the Sunshine Law, which provides for open availability of information in public institutions, says records such as crime statistics must be made available.

We are not saying we think the police are actively trying to keep information from the public.

That would be a grave mistake for a police department attempting to get international accreditation. If it came out that UM-St. Louis police were purposely withholding information, it could sink that plan pretty quickly.

Rather, we are saying there is a lack of organization.

If the person who compiles the campus crime information is under the weather, the solution is pretty simple. Have someone else do it.

UM-St. Louis has too many problems right now to worry about whether or not information is being denied to the public.

This is really too simple an issue to have it become this big of a problem.

The campus must be assured that we are receiving necessary information involving public safety. There is too much at stake to take chances with people's peace of mind.

ball Cardinals, they just could not focus on crime. Possible, but not likely.

According to federal law, it does not matter.

Under the Jean Clery act of 1992, all universities in the United States are required to keep a crime log listing all incidents involving the university, the last 60 days of which must be accessible to the public during normal business hours.

The Jean Clery act was passed after a student at Lehigh University

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

As a forum for public expression on campus, *The Current* welcomes letters to the editor and guest commentaries from students, faculty, staff members and others concerned with issues relevant to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. *The Current* reserves the right to deny letters.

Guest commentaries are typically longer (generally 400-600 words) on a specific topic of interest to readers. If you are interested in writing a guest commentary, please contact *The Current's* editor-in-chief.

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EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

To our country's veterans, we owe a collective 'thank you'

The first time I felt my step fathers pain was at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.. I can remember the way he looked at the wall. All of the names carved into the black rock that had a mirror like effect. He had tears in his eyes, although if I asked he would probably dismiss the salty liquid as caused by wind or dust or something.

That day he walked to up to a man and said "Welcome home." The man smiled back returned the comment and both seemingly strangers shared something most Americans couldn't imagine.

Over the years that I have known John, I have always wondered what it was like to volunteer during the Vietnam War.

I wondered what it was like for him to carry an M60 through the wet marshes and foreign countryside.

I can only imagine.

I am proud of him. I am proud that



By ADAM D. WISEMAN
Editor-in-Chief

every once in a while he opens up just enough to tell me a story from when he was in "the Nam."

When we went to the wall he took me to a couple of names that were of guys he knew. One of them was his cousin and several were good friends.

Trying to take in the magnitude of

being in war is scary for some and impossible for others. John's story is one of many Americans who served this country with honor and courage.

This Saturday, November 11, is Veterans Day. It is a day to honor the veterans of all of our wars including the current conflict in Iraq.

Take the time this week to call someone you know that is a veteran of war. Tell them 'thank you' for their service.

If you do not know a veteran take the time this Saturday for the 23rd Annual Veterans' Day Parade and Observance. It will begin with a pre-parade ceremony at 11 a.m. at the Soldiers' Memorial in downtown St. Louis. It is located at 1315 Chestnut

I wish to thank all the veterans of all of our wars, the living and the dead. I truly appreciate your courage and sacrifice.

Thank You.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Is a college degree simply an extra \$23,000?

Recent studies show that a college degree is worth an extra \$23,000. Yahoo, AOL and other media also put out articles that were parallel to this idea. Most of the statistics came from the Census Bureau, who compared the average salary of those with high school diplomas versus those with college degrees, Bachelor's in particular.

I'm saddened at the fact that the possibility to make more money comes with a college degree. I think everyone in college should be.

But I must say that financial gains are not and should not be the only thing we hope for while pursuing a college degree. There are a number of things that can be taken along with big money projections.

It seems that the world is fixated on the dollar and I know that money is a big part of our lives; however we should not forsake the plentiful entities that accompany academic success.

Friendships, bonds, skills, shedding of bad behaviors for good behaviors, possible solutions to problems in society, new ideas about life can accompany college degrees as well.



By MYRON MCNEILL
Opinions Editor

Do we assume that a completed college degree's only equivalent is a pot of gold?

I know for those who have debt, especially from school, that the mention of money is a relief. However, I am also inclined to say that college should be more than the pursuit

of a projected monetary gain. Maybe it would be beneficial for people to learn how to break bad habits, form relationships with other people, communicate with others who don't share their similarities and obtain social and economic skills.

Let us not assume that social pursuits go hand in hand with the possession of college degree. And let us not overlook the many things that we gain or have the ability to while we pursue college degrees. Finally, let us not assume that a college degree means more money is a guarantee.

However, while the money is not a guarantee, other essentials and possibilities can be. Therefore, as we pursue our degrees in hopes of bettering our chances for financial gains, let us consider gaining other skills for our social and emotional benefits.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Baseball is more than a game. It's a bond

If you build it, he will come.

The events leading up to and including the World Series victory of the St. Louis Cardinals was nothing short of amazing. Just imagine, an 83win team winning the World Series. It had never been done before, until Tony LaRussa, Albert Pujols, David Eckstein, Scott Rolen and company accomplished the feat.

As a die hard baseball fan, and more importantly, Cardinals fan, I had been waiting for this moment for 24 years. I can vaguely remember the 1982 world championship, which is to say I remember my parents going crazy when Bruce Sutter got the final strikeout and embraced Catcher Darryl Porter. Now I have memories of my own.

If you build it, he will come.

The Cardinals victory speaks to more than just baseball, however. Several friends of mine and I decided we had to be downtown when the Cardinals won it all. We did not have tickets, we just wanted to be there. We had chicken wings, we had peanuts, we had some beers and we had the company of other Cardinals fans, who like us, just wanted to be there. This, too, speaks to more than just baseball. After all, we could just as easily have gone to someone's house and had wings and beer and peanuts there. It would not have been the same. The magic of the Cardinals wrist band would not have been the same. The magic of Jeff Weaver and Adam Wainwright and So Taguchi would not have been the same.

What does it speak to? What does this say? I can try and explain it this way. I haven't spoken to my father in many years. I do not know where he



By JASON GRANGER
Staff Writer

lives, where he is working, what he is doing. But if I tracked him down tomorrow and gave him a call, we may not be able to talk about much, but we could talk baseball.

When I was a kid, his favorite player was John Tudor, the crazy pitcher for the Cardinals in the 1980s.

My favorite player was Willie McGee, number 51. We could talk about that. We could talk about Pujols and Rolen and Jim Edmonds and Jeff Weaver and Chris Carpenter. We could talk about whether Barry Bonds is on steroids. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that we could heal our relationship just by talking about baseball. Why? Because it is more than just a game.

If you build it, he will come.

Anyone who tells you baseball is just a game is oversimplifying. It is a bond. It is a bond between friends who experienced watching their favorite team win the World Series and jumping into each other's arms. It is instantly becoming friends with those who also witnessed the event, giving high fives and hugs all around. It is a bond between brothers, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, grandfathers and grandchildren.

Football may have surpassed baseball in popularity. Basketball is flashier. Hockey is faster and more physical. NASCAR has car crashes. But baseball, baseball has more than that; it has a mysticism, a mythology that the other sports cannot touch.

Think of the great sports icons. Sure, basketball has Michael Jordan, football has Joe Montana and hockey has Wayne Gretzky.

see **CARDINALS**, page 14

UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

How do you feel about living in the most dangerous city in the country?



Claire Beeman
Sophomore
International Business & Spanish



Arthur Johnson
Senior
Film



Roi Achmadi
Senior
Management Information Systems



Laura Fox
Sophomore
Psychology



Matthew Kramer
Junior
Economics

What do you think? Send your own response to thecurrent@umsl.edu. The person who submits

"I didn't know St. Louis was the most dangerous city in the U.S."

"Being from California, I don't really think St. Louis is all that dangerous."

"I'm scared to go downtown, someone broke into my friend's car and stole a cell phone."

"I do feel like I live in the most dangerous city in the world, but the crime"

"It's disappointing, but I don't want to say I'm not"

SCIENCE COLUMN

The science of electronic voter machines

Have you ever had your computer malfunction? Everyone who has worked with a computer knows things can go wrong. Programs have bugs, things get fouled up and computers go haywire or crash. It is a fact of life. If anything in your life depends on computers, you know you have to have backup systems. For all their benefits, computers have an enormous potential for screw-up, especially if there is no back-up. Your bank and your credit card company may use top-of-line computers and software but if you are smart, you are still going to check your bank and credit card statements, right?

What does this have to do with voting? When we go to vote on Tuesday this week, you will have the choice to vote with an electronic touch screen voting machine, which looks like an ATM. The resemblance is more than superficial. Electronic voting machines are really just computers, with the same vulnerabilities and potential for problems.

The new electronic voting machines, which most of us will find at our polling places, are basically just computers, subject to all the flaws and glitches of any computer. Voters need to be aware of that fact and act accordingly, just as you do for other computerized systems.



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

If you want to be sure there is no problem with counting your vote accurately, you might want to ask for a paper ballot instead. No, it is not conspiracy theory stuff but the viewpoint taken by those most knowledgeable about computers. But first of all, you must remember there is nothing exotic about vote fraud. The issue of people trying to manipulate the vote is as old as voting itself. Nor is this a technophobia thing. Computer scientists and programmers are the ones raising the red flags on electronic voting machines that do not produce a voter-verified paper ballot that can be saved for a

recount. When you go to vote, you might want to ask for a paper ballot if you want to be sure your vote is counted, and you can do so at every polling place. According to the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners, every polling place will offer voters a choice between a touch screen electronic voting machine, with no paper ballot, and an Optiscan voting machine that has a paper ballot. If your polling place tells you that you must vote with the touch screen machine, the Board of Election Commissioners says you should call them. You trust your ATM, so why not a voting machine? Actually, there are a number of differences between banking and voting that mean that voting systems that do not produce a paper ballot that is verified by the individual voter and can be used for a recount pose some significant risks for a democracy. You trust your bank because they have a vested interest in accurately balancing your account. Plus you do have a paper audit. In vote counting, dispensing with the paper backup and simply saying "trust me" just does not cut it.

See MACHINES, page 14

GUEST COMMENTARY

The man behind the initiative curtain

By KENNY SIMPSON

Guest Commentator

In all the bru-ha-ha over Amendment 2, the Stem Cell initiative, the debate has simply come down to whether or not the bill actually allows cloning. So the public discourse has become little more than the opponents of the bill saying it allows cloning, and is therefore immoral, to which the supporters shake their heads, simply say no cloning, and then proceed to make grandiose promises that, even if they can deliver on, will not be in the lifetimes of some of the people they trot forward to sell the bill to us. Since many of the articles written on this subject reference religion, either in an appeal to morality or in mockery of a "silly value system", and many more just say it either is or isn't cloning, I felt a new perspective was needed, one not based in cloning or religion. While I do not share many of the moral concerns of the detractors of the bill, I find the distortion of their views by their opponents (such as Ms. Marquis deliberately misleading statement that fears over human cloning could lead to a ban of cloned bacteria and strawberries) absolutely disconcerting. I have always held the view that if

you have to lie or distort the truth to get my attention, or try to garner my support, I have to hold the idea you're trying to get my support for in question. To be honest, in making the issue about cloning, on which many of us are altruistic if it could actually find a cure, the religious objectors have moved the debate away from the important issue to a mostly unimportant side note. While I respect their devotion, they have largely trivialized this issue, and probably garnered support among those who are unconcerned with cloning (as well as allowing the repeated mantra that right wingers are lying about cloning). Its opponents have made it seem like there are only moral issues at stake, which makes the issue about the rights of the disabled versus the rights of embryos (which is hard to support since many of the experimental ones were going to be discarded anyways). But there are practical reasons to vote no as well. In the field of private research, the game is trial and error. While many people think that stem cell research has just come about, and the big bad companies won't fund it because of moral reasons, stem cell research is nothing new. It's been around since 1997, and has been funded by private industry with little result. Testing in rats has developed nothing

positive, only teratomas, which are monster tumors, and some other nasty side effects. When something fails in the private sector, the research is supposed to go in another direction. Whereas some scientists have had astounding success with adult stem cells and umbilical stem cells. Why aren't these getting the hype of embryonic stem cells? And when they're mentioned, why do supporters of embryonic stem cell research try to downplay the significance of those other fields? The answer to that is relatively simple. If there is already a line of research doing what embryonic stem cells have the "potential" to do, that lacks the controversy, and is applicable NOW, that certainly makes embryonic stem cell use less pertinent. And honestly, while embryonic stem cells may possibly one day do everything that we're promised, it's also likely that they will do nothing. The majority of research leads nowhere, and cures nothing. For every successful line of inquiry, there are hundreds of lines of failure. Business has written off embryonic as a failure, and mostly, the funding has dried up. See STEM CELLS, page 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighter Jets

Dear Sir: The title *The Current* gave to Tobias Knoll in his recent editorial, "Fighter jets over campus are symbol of changing world", says "proofreader". I wish he would have proof-read his facts before submitting his commentary to the editor. Mr. Knoll begins by saying the activity of the 131st Fighter Wing in the Missouri Air National Guard flights has increased since 9/11. He then goes on to imply that the money George Bush and Matt Blunt use to fund these flights are stolen out of the hands of the poor, the needy, and from education. The 131st air wing has proudly served out of the Saint Louis area since 1923. In the 83 years of service, the wing has upgraded its squadron 18 times. The current F-15's are going on their 15th year in service in this wing. The wing's vision - total air superiority. During the Bush Administration in 2005, to lower costs, the Department of Defense requested the "Base Realignment and Closure of 2005", which would have eliminated the presence of the tactical fighter squadron here in Saint Louis. However, local democrats (like William Lacy Clay, Jr. - one of the biggest opponents of the War in the state of Missouri) and republicans alike united to defend the need for "total air superiority" over the Saint Louis Area. Where is the increase Mr. Knoll refers to? Non-existent. I would like to comment on Mr. Knoll's opinion on the effect of budget cuts on George Bush and the rich, but he provides only scant speculation and absolutely no facts. In fact, I'd say the worst waste of money being diverted from education that I've discovered is whatever commission was paid to Mr. Knoll for writing this ridiculous, non-factual, non-educational, and ultimately pointless opinion, and the cost of the paper and ink on which it was written. If my student activity fees are going to pay for a one-sided editorial staff, I expect it to be at least slightly astute. Benjamin Mason Graduate Student Economics

Amendment 3

While I was elated to see a deeper coverage of the ballot issues in the 10/30/06 *Current*, some things were missing in the coverage of Amendment 3. It is pure rhetoric, and incorrect math, to say the proposed increase results in a 470 percent tax increase. Yes, 80 cents is 470 percent of 19 cents, but 19 cents is the wrong figure to use because this calculation ignores the 39-cent Federal tax as well as any local levies, which in St. Louis County range from around 5.5 percent to 7.75 percent, or from between 22 cents and 31 cents per \$4.00 pack. The correct measure of the tax increase should be 80 cents divided by 80 cents or by 89 cents, both of which are far short of the alleged five-fold jump. Moreover, arguments that invoke unfairness are unfounded. Letters in the Post-Dispatch have appealed to unfair taxation as a reason for the Revolutionary War. But I must point out that the motto was "No Taxation Without Representation" and it does not apply to Amendment 3. In fact, the proposal will be the most democratic tax increase possible since every legal smoker has a say in it. There has been talk of corruption, that the money will go to pet projects. This is nothing more than cynicism.

The language of the Amendment is clear and demands strict auditing controls for the proceeds of this tax. We do need to have a dialog about government waste, but if you believe that the State is so corrupt as to be untrustworthy of any public funds, then please don your Guy Fawkes mask and black cloak and march on Jeff City. Finally, I must respond to the arguments that this tax increase will raise costs for all and harm small businesses. It is an economic fact that an increased cost of business will be passed on to the consumer - and cigarette taxes will be passed on to the smoker. However, they will not be passed on in purchases of gasoline, burritos, soda, or any other product. This tax is a per-unit tax, with an incidence on the consumer, and will not be included in overhead expenses. Tobaccoist business will suffer some. Convenience stores and grocers will adapt by reducing shelf space for tobacco and increasing the selection of other products. So who will pay more? Smokers who have developed a habit, i.e. those who are most apt to require health care, will pay the brunt of the tax. Smokers who smoke only occasionally will pay a little more than they used to. Smokers who have not developed a habit and whose incomes are most limited will bear the least of the cost increase as a group because they are the most likely to quit. This is a good thing - studies have shown that Missouri has an astonishingly high rate of smoking among junior high school students. This tax has been and remains a good idea for the future of Missouri. Jeremy Loscheider Graduate Student Economics

Amendment 2

Dear Holly Scheibel, Amendment 2 only allows "access to stem cell therapies and cures" by permitting federally permitted cures, and adds additional limitations. For one, it bans human cloning and human cloning attempts with language that still allows for in vitro fertilization. Also, it strictly bans the buying and selling of eggs and stem cells for research. Only stem cells and eggs signed over voluntarily and with informed consent, documented in writing, are to be used. However, these fertilized eggs are currently being thrown into medical waste dumpsters by the thousands. Further, Amendment 2 establishes a stem cell research oversight committee made up of representatives of the public, as well as medical and scientific experts. Finally, the Amendment would require an annual public report on stem cell research, so none of the wicked shenanigans Amendment 2 opponents imagine would be possible. As for cures, there have been proven cures in treating paralysis and blindness in rats by the mere application of stem cells, which have scientifically proven the existence of comparable human cures and treatments. As for cost, we spend more in Iraq every 20 seconds than we do on life saving cures. Finally, I am disappointed in *The Current*. While I am glad that they openly print what students send to them, I am disappointed that they printed a letter in which the writer attempts to cloak blatantly false statements under the cover of opinion, subverting the facts that *The Current* is respected for. Matt Hull Senior Anthropology

Transgender

I found Charles Stadtlander's musings of Oct. 23 to be a bit confusing. He says "Transsexuality, including transgendered people and drag queens, represent a fringe part of society that has nothing to do with being gay or lesbian and is not representative of our community as a whole." And he follows that with a paragraph which ends with a de facto declaration that all of the above are the antithesis of "normalcy." I'm not familiar with Mr. Stadtlander's major, but if it is history, I would suggest that he include in his degree plan a class that explores the realities of the history of what he sees as only the gay and lesbian rights movement. A primary reason that people such as Stadtlander have been able to get away with this sort of neo-conformist subversion is that prior (I'm assuming) to his ever being born, transsexuals were forcibly thrown out of the then-embryonic gay rights movement largely at the behest of those who can legitimately be characterized as man-hating lesbian feminists. Oh...The reason for our ejection? We were TOO NORMAL. Transitioning from one sex to the other was deemed to be perpetuating the gender stereotypes of the patriarchal oppressor. So, make up your minds, gay conservatives? Are we too normal or are we too freaky? Or, do you think you can apply the same changing-the-facts-to-fit-the-situation dance that your D.C. deities have done for the last six years? (Honestly, though, I can't blame you for trying; it's been working quite well for them, though I suspect that will change on Nov. 7.) By the way, I think that any objective review of current scientific literature will show that there is more verifiable proof of a biological basis for

gender variance (certainly intersexuality, but also transsexualism), than there is for homosexuality (though make no mistake: I do believe that there are biological bases for both.) Additionally, I feel confident that an objective review of the legal landscape will show that far more states (including Missouri) have legislatively recognized the existence of transsexualism than have ever recognized gay marriage (my last count: about 25 to 0; 25 to 2 if you want to count civil unions.) Also, if it matters, I'm actually not all that thrilled by the sight of drag shows in conjunction with gay rights events - but not for the same reasons you harbor. Far too often (though I do not profess to know the specifics of what took place on the UM-St.Louis campus), the non-trans gays and lesbians in charge of an event think that a token inclusion of a drag show magically transforms the event into one that is substantively trans-inclusive. Just like many think that calling a movement or an organization "GLBT" makes it so when the utterance of that "T" is the only aspect of trans-inclusion. It's been my experience that those who try to get away with this are cut from the same cloth as Mr. Stadtlander. Confusing as it was, I actually think it's a good thing for him to have shown his true colors - in the same way that it's a good thing when the religionist element of the party that he seemingly has allegiance to lays bare all of their hatred and bigotry so we can see what they are really all about. Katrina Rose Attorney at Law (TX, MN) Graduate Teaching Assistant Department of History University of Iowa

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INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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November marks national novel writing month

More than 40 aspiring authors from St. Louis will compete in annual NaNoWriMo contest

National Novel Writing Month Contest by the Numbers

- 50,000 words (or about 175 pages) - the goal that writers must achieve by Nov. 30 to be eligible to win
- 59,000 - number of participants last year. Of those, 9,769 were winners. In 1999, when the contest started, only 21 participants entered the contest and six of them won.
- Nine - the number of NaNoWriMo manuscripts that have been sold to big-time publishing houses

For more information, go to www.nanowrimo.org

By AMY RECKTENWALD

Staff Writer

Normally, the arrival of November means plans of turkey consumption and the start of the Christmas shopping season. For writers all across America, Nov. 1 signals the start of something bigger: NaNoWriMo.

National Novel Writing Month, also known as NaNoWriMo or NaNo for short, is being held for the seventh year this November. It is a challenge for writers to produce a 50,000 word novel in the month of November.

What started out as a challenge with NaNo founder Chris Baty and 20 of his friends to accomplish writing a novel in a month has now become a writing sensation with a huge following. This year, there are over 67,000 participants registered for NaNoWriMo.

Participants are considered winners for completing their novels before the end of November. For winning, they can download a certificate online, but according to Jessica Heaton, Municipal Liaison for St. Louis, the pride of finishing is a prize too.

There is a system on the NaNoWriMo Web site that allows writers to upload their novel. Then, word counters confirm the word count on the novel. "Otherwise, it's on the honor system," Heaton said.

The books are not critiqued for quality, as the goal is completion of copious writing. However, according to the NaNoWriMo Web site, nine NaNo books have gone on to publication: "The Destructor," "Time Off for Good Behavior," "Maybe Baby," "Flying Changes," "Breakup Babe," "The Mote in Andrea's Eye" and "Self Storage." "Cashmere Boulevard" is due out in summer of 2007 and "The Dreamgirl Academy" is due out in spring of 2008.

The challenge is open to anyone.

"It's fun and a good personal challenge," Heaton said. "People say they want to write a novel someday, but never get around to it."

NaNo gives aspirant writers the chance to step out of their comfort zones and prove to themselves they can write and finish a novel

by giving them a tough deadline to keep pushing them forward with their writing.

Another important facet of the NaNo challenge is the support from other participants either through the online forums or in person. "It's good to be around and supported by other writers," Heaton said.

Municipal Liaisons like Heaton help to organize and host 'meet-ups' and 'write-ins', NaNo terms for social meetings to interact with other local participants and sitting in to write for a few hours.

These events are held not only in homes, but sometimes also on college campuses, or inside businesses. Barnes and Noble is one such business open to NaNo participants nationwide. Heaton said, "Businesses nationwide give discounts to participants, so it's well supported."

The St. Louis kickoff meeting was held on Oct. 29 at the St. Louis Bread Company in Clayton. Over 40 people were present, with ages ranging from nine to 65.

"The 9-year-old was doing the Young Writers Program," Heaton said. "It's a program for young writers that allows them to participate, but set their own goals. It's also made to be used by teachers in the classroom." According to the NaNo Web site, over 100 elementary schools participated in the Young Writers Program in 2005.

Age is not the only diversity in the challenge community. This year, novel concepts range from an irreverent theological exploration of the murder of God to a comedic life story of a motherless girl who adopts Scarlett O'Hara as a role model. Other novels in the works are about psychotic concert pianists, fantasy literature and the classic romance.

For anyone on the fence about joining the madness, Heaton said, "People are still welcome to sign up. It's fun."

Writers are not required to register or sign up to participate, unless they wish to use the services available on the Web site.

More information can be found online at www.nanowrimo.org.

A tale of two art exhibits at Gallery 210

Interactive exhibit 'Cuba Journal' takes visitors to artist's home country

By GRAHAM TUCKER

Staff Writer

Flores is the Spanish word for flowers and oh how Ana Flores' "Cuba Journal" will grow on people. A candid diary entry is emblazoned upon a wall when one first enters Gallery 210's Space B, where Flores's "Cuban Journal" is on display.

In it, at a very young and naive age, she speaks of how she traded her sand dollars in Cuba for cold hard cash in Connecticut when her family fled persecution under Castro's rule in 1962.

Multiple forms of media are sprinkled about the space displaying her return to the wicked step-mother country of Cuba.

At first, the constructs of confessions from Cuba are a tad crude, but this oil goes through the slippery slope of refinement that leaves one welling up in tears.

The installation is a narrative of the return journey that Flores experiences mixed with reflections of her childhood. Following her path, we leave from Miami with notions and land in a land of things that have not seen change in 40 years, whether it be word or car. Parallels of the past come about through briefcases of sand and

sculptures of swine with entries from her experience that come in tow.

One need not go through the rain forests of metaphor to see Ana Flores's emotions about her subject. Her art exhibit also shows the courage one must bear to put forth such personal thoughts to the casual stranger.

She is quite the brave individual to not only go back and face the demons of her past, but also to show them to the world.



Steve Jackson, senior, graphic design, and Maria Fierro, junior, art history, play dominoes during the opening of 'Cuba Journal', an interactive sculptural installation by Ana Flores in Gallery 210.

This caught me off guard as I was not expecting intimate statements from the artist.

But after all, it is readily apparent that "journal" is in the title and is where one would keep secluded thoughts.

"Cuba Journal" is a beautiful and heart-wrenching personal statement of culture and heritage.

It is also universal in the regard that it evokes thought of one's own

ancestry and what elements people have and what elements have been lost in the years of gentrification endured by our ethnicities in the pursuit of the American Dream.

When thoughts and the journey conclude, "Cuba Journal" asks: is it better to endure the faults of an oppressive government and retain identity or lose it in the race of rats?

"Cuba Journal" will be on display at Gallery 210 through Dec. 9.

He read from his new work, which is untitled, and afterwards answered questions and discussed his development as a writer.

His first novel, "Heaven Lake," won the 2004 Barnes and Noble Discover Award in Fiction and the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Professor Dalton, who earned his master's of fine arts at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, returned to teach at UM-St. Louis, where he received his undergraduate degree.

After his reading, which lasted approximately 45 to 50 minutes, he began to give meaningful advice on how future writers could develop their writing skills grammatically and creatively.

He also expressed that writers, those pursuing a higher degree of specialization in MFA programs, should shoot for the best programs because opportunities exist at every type of university for all students.

He felt that a writer is not distinguished by his or her educational training or background, but by his or her ability to create and utilize their imagination to the fullest capacity.

Thirty to 35 people were in the audience and the event concluded shortly after 1 p.m.

Professor Dalton's reading was part of the Monday Noon Series, offered free every Monday in J.C. Penney Room 229.

Author, English professor John Dalton advises creative writers at Noon Series

By MYRON McNEILL

Staff Writer

The Monday Noon Series on Oct. 30, 2006, was an intimate fiction reading with John Dalton, assistant professor of English and faculty member in the MFA Program in creative writing at UM-St. Louis.

He read from his new work, which is untitled, and afterwards answered questions and discussed his development as a writer.

His first novel, "Heaven Lake," won the 2004 Barnes and Noble Discover Award in Fiction and the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

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Local photographer Ken Konchel shows that an 'Elegant City' exists in St. Louis

By GRAHAM TUCKER

Staff Writer

Upon entering Space A of Gallery 210, many might think photographer Ken Konchel is a charlatan of the camera and a wolf of words when impressions are first formed.

"Elegant City," his exhibit of city photographs at Gallery 210, at first glance evokes ports of purity where ships of splendor take harbor in the head.

But when one enters into the gallery space, insincere ideas are abruptly sunk by his shots of St. Louis. Canvassing the walls are structures of shape beautifully borne from the dark room.

Black and white are words of a corrupt judge that do no justice to the pieces of photography Konchel yields, and one must stop for many a moment to take in the beauty that is to be found within our metropolis.

Even Bill Cosby could sell these sil-

ver gelatin print photo subjects. Konchel has the uncanny ability to snare snakes of snapshots with the precision of the builder's fruits found within his framing.

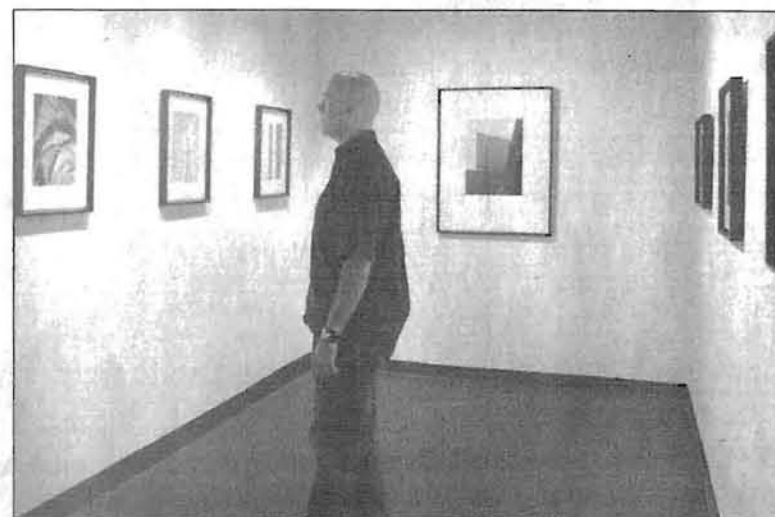
Models of modernism prevail in the pictures harking to the days of renowned St. Louis architectural firm Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, completely baffling the viewing visitor as to what definitive building it may be.

Speaking of definition, none is more defining than these framed fabrications of steel and mortar.

Details of the deterioration of designs that were meant for millennia are visible to the viewer displaying how particular the processing of his photos is.

Konchel's work is the undertow of a tidal wave pulling the little crest of a community to a sea of a city by captivating the spectator with images of beauty one might not think existed in this slurry of steel.

With absolutes of aesthetics, he



Bill Rintz enjoys Ken Konchel's 'Elegant City' photographs during the exhibit opening on Thursday, Sept. 21 at Gallery 210.

advocates a return to the glory of the golden years—not with Manchurian memories of neo-urbanism, but rather with shots of shapes of our splendid city of century-old constructs.

The patterned pictures partake in a parley with the people in pumping pride into our place—I have come to peace with the 'p's for today—of radiance.

In its root of this redwood, Ken

wants his Barbie of a bustling burg by means of exploration throughout this city. Off to find the Livingston of living within our metropolis, he encourages us to find our "Carmens" and "Waldos" with these pictures, a sort of game to seek out these buildings and in the end our city itself.

Konchel's photo exhibit "Elegant City" will be on display at the campus' Gallery 210 art venue through Nov. 18.

TOP 10

Quotes from Missouri writers

1. "Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light." - Joseph Pulitzer
2. "Wynken, Blynken and Nod one night / Sailed off in a wooden shoe / Sailed on a river of crystal light, / Into a sea of dew." - Eugene Field
3. "And moreover, to succeed, the artist must possess the courageous soul...the brave soul. The soul that dares and defies." - Kate Chopin
4. "Any writer worth the name is always getting into one thing or getting out of another thing." - Fannie Hurst
5. "I shall make the most of all that comes: And the least of all that goes" - Sara Teasdale
6. "Our high respect for a well read person is praise enough for literature." - TS Eliot
7. "The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug." - Mark Twain
8. "It is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all." - Laura Ingalls Wilder
9. "Humor is laughing at what you haven't got when you ought to have it." - Langston Hughes
10. "Luck is believing you're lucky." - Tennessee Williams

Send your top ten idea idea to us: thecurrent@umsl.edu

CONCERT REVIEW

'Steven Reich at 70' a wonderful experience

By GRAHAM TUCKER
Staff Writer

The reverberations of sound yielded from members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, accompanied by Elysium vocals from London, and transported those at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, who were of the utmost fortune to have braved the torrents of water, to an environment where the conventions of time and space were halted to allow the flow of the superfluous sounds of "Steven Reich at 70." Sadly, composer Steve Reich was not in attendance, as a man celebrating his birthday at such a late stage in his life can only travel so much for his many celebrations of birth. But the conductor of the aforementioned symphony, David Robertson, more than made up for the absence of "the greatest living composer," as the Village Voice described Reich.

To think of this event at the Touhill as a classical symphony would be false, as it defied convention and label. No such words could be ascribed to fully encompass the compositions of Reich. Playback, sampling (yes, you indeed did read correctly, sampling) and full bodied orchestras are but a few items that surfaced in this performance. Four pieces were played, culminating in a two hour engagement that left many beaus of the sonance wanting more.

MYGATEWAY, from page 1

According to Dr. Tom, the new password changes go beyond email. "It is better to start enforcing this now rather than later," he said.

The IT world as a whole has been increasing security measures as it matures due to phishing, identity theft, and viruses. Phishing is when someone attempts to obtain someone's personal credit card or banking information by posing as a business, charity or other trustworthy person or group.

Ewings said she has not experienced, nor has she heard of any other student with a problem of identity theft or viruses. However, she said she gets many phishing emails. "I don't know how I get these, I don't think I

Serving a bit of a stale sandwich with the first and fourth, the remaining second piece was absolutely spectacular until the third blew the audience away. The second piece, going by the title "City Life" and created in 1995, captures the essence and energy of New York City to a "T." Using a full orchestra intertwined with the sampling of whirring bus motors and yells of the streets created the precise moment one would hear on Lex Avenue.

Being that it was conceived in the mid 90s in New York, the ethos of the musical cityscape turns to a sour note as emergency calls from the 1993 World Trade Center bombing interject to create something that is dark but all the same a part of Manhattan. Robertson for half an hour whisked the audience away, or flung skyscrapers from his hands.

Either way, we were in a city of sound. The third piece, "New York Counterpoint," was a bit surreal as it featured the playback of a single clarinet ten fold offering an oscilloscope for the ears.

The evening was perfect in every possible way. This perfection was not held exclusively at the Touhill, but also, an unlucky 13 miles away, the lucky Cardinals brought about their second win in the World Series. Despite the absence of the billed man Reich, the night managed to bear an ethereal Elysium reverie.

emailed them but they email me," she said.

Ewings said it would be nice if UM-St. Louis' IT services could offer some type of bulk folder or a Spam blocker.

About a month ago, the four UM campuses met to decide on the same rules for each campus. The change will take place on Nov. 20.

"Beginning November 6, if you have not changed your password in the last 180 days, you will receive an email from ITS staff informing you that your password will expire in 14 days," Tom said in the Oct. 30 email.

Password creation rules will remain unchanged.

ROCKING THE PILOT HOUSE



The band Runner Up plays during the fourth annual Hear Me Out presented by Delta Zeta on Thursday, Nov. 2 in the Pilot House. Part of the proceeds from this even went to Heather Brandow's Memorial fund.

INDONESIA, from page 1

The group coordinators cooked the trademark Indonesian delicacies such as "sintang chicken (spicy grilled chicken)" and "rendang (beef stew with coconut milk)" from scratch.

"The best part of putting on the event is that we are hanging out together and forming close relationships with other Indonesian people,"

Arifani said.

Arifani, who came to the United States in 2005, said that as he transitioned from his hometown of Jakarta to St. Louis, he found that individualism and independence dominated over the group camaraderie he grew up with.


He explained that in his group of

friends, "If we are doing something, we are not doing it alone. We are working together."

The ISA at UM-St. Louis has been active on campus since 2004 and currently consists of about 30 students. Arifani said that the event strives to bring together not only the Indonesian students at UMSL, but all Indonesian

people living in St. Louis and anyone who is interested in learning about their culture.


"If you missed Indonesian night this year, you should go next year. It will be a very memorable experience for you and you will see a culture that you probably have never been exposed to before," Rahardjo said.



Commencement
Candidates
Attend the Grad Fair
Nov. 7, 8, & 9, 2006
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
University Bookstore (MSC)
(purchase cap and gown and order announcements, etc.)

Web site: www.umsl.edu/commencement

2006
December
Commencement
at the
BLANCHE M. TOUHILL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

10 A.M. - College of Nursing
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- School of Social Work
- Bachelor of General Studies & Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
- UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
- Master's in Gerontology
- Master's in Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

2 P.M. College of Education
6 P.M. College of Business Administration

To All Students.....

Every year, a committee is formed called the Student Activity Budget Committee (SABC), which spends its time ensuring that your student activity fees are allocated in a responsible and appropriate manner to our campus student organizations.


All students are encouraged and welcomed to apply for a position on this committee, and the applications are now available at the front desk of Student Life. The application includes a paper application and an interview process, which will be scheduled with you at a later date once the minimum requirements of application are met.

The committee meets once weekly on Friday afternoons during the winter semester. Please note this, so that you can prepare yourself for the time commitment, if you choose to apply.

The SABC serves as a great opportunity to get involved and a way to have a say in how your student activity fees are spent. Applications will be available until Monday November 13, 2006. Please pick up an application today!

Thanks,
Shanna Carpenter

SGA Comptroller
UM-St Louis
(314) 516-7525



AT THE TOUHILL

'Evening of Jewish Cinema' screening comes to Touhill

Special event is part of St. Louis International Film Fest

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Film fans will have a rare film treat when "An Evening of Jewish Cinema" graces the movie screen on Tuesday, Nov. 14. The one-time film event presents three gems of Jewish cinema as part of the St. Louis International Film Festival from Nov. 9 to Nov. 19.

One of several special events in the festival, "An Evening of Jewish Cinema" is free and open to all.

The program includes "Howling with the Angels," a documentary about Czech Jews who fought back against the Nazis, shown with the short film "My Dear Kassa." The program also features the newly-restored Hungarian Jewish

silent film drama "Judith Simon." "Howling with the Angels" Director Jean Bodon will attend. The silent film "Judith Simon" will be presented with music composed especially for it.

Dr. Rita Csapo-Sweet, associate professor and director of Media Studies, will curate the cinema event, presented at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 14 at UM-St. Louis's Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Blanche M. Touhill

An Evening of Jewish Cinema

When: Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Touhill PAC

Cost: Free and open to the public

Performing Arts Center.

"Judith Simon" is one of the few remaining examples of Hungarian silent film and an even rarer example of silent Hungarian Jewish cinema.

The screening will be accompanied by music composed for it by Dr. Barbara Harbach, professor of music at UM-St. Louis. The evening will be the debut performance of the composition.

Dr. Csapo-Sweet and Dr. Harbach have collaborated on silent film projects before, and previously presented an especially composed score for an evening of films by the first woman director, Alice Guy, at the 2004 St. Louis International Film Festival.

See JEWISH CINEMA, page 12



"An Evening of Jewish Cinema" will run at the Touhill PAC Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

A&E ON CAMPUS

Now-Nov. 7: 'Both Sides' Political Film Fest from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Gallery 210 auditorium.

Now-Nov. 11: "Cally Barker Stuff" art exhibit at Gallery FAB.

Now-Nov. 18: Elegant City" photo exhibit at Gallery 210.

Now-Nov. 18: "Vat" video exhibit at Gallery 210.

Now-Nov. 30: "Influences in Japanese Traditional Pottery" exhibit at the Mercantile Library.

Now-Dec. 9: "Cuba Journal" art exhibit at Gallery 210.

Now-Jan. 5: "Point-of-View: Think Tank" photo exhibit at the Public Policy Research Center.

Now-June 30: "History Uncorked: Two Centuries of Missouri Wine" history exhibit at the Mercantile Library.

Nov. 6: University Singers free concert at 7:30 p.m. at Touhill PAC.

Kathy Griffin comedy performance at 8 p.m. at the Touhill.

Nov. 7: "Simply Sinatra" concert with Jim Widner 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill.

Nov. 11: Madame Butterfly 8 p.m. at the Touhill.

Nov. 14: "Evening Of Jewish Cinema" at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill.

TOP iTunes DOWNLOADS

1. My Love - Justin Timberlake featuring T.I.
2. Smack That - Akon
3. Fergalicious - Fergie
4. How to Save a Life - The Fray
5. Lips of an Angel - Hinder
6. Chasing Cars - Snow Patrol



7. Irreplaceable - Beyoncé
8. Welcome to the Black Parade - My Chemical Romance
9. White & Nerdy - "Weird Al" Yankovic
10. Maneater - Nelly Furtado

ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Film festival thrills area movie buffs

STORY BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER • A & E EDITOR

Every year, film fans look forward to the annual St. Louis International Film Festival, like kids looking forward to Halloween.

The post-Halloween SLIFF certainly delivers the cinema treats that film aficionados crave, which they only get at the annual Fall Film Fest.

From Nov. 9 to Nov. 19, 2006, the St. Louis International Film Festival presents 10 days of the best of new international cinema, festival winners, documentaries, shorts, and indie films getting festival buzz.

The festival also offers a first look at new releases from renowned filmmakers, noted and award-winning documentaries, animated films, restored silent films and retrospectives.

The festival is packed with special events, parties, seminars for filmmakers, and the chance to meet directors and stars.

The best local films from the summertime St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase also return for a second look. SLIFF is one of the few official outlets for short films to qualify for the Oscars, so one of the special treats of the festival is the chance to see so many outstanding short films, documentary, animated and fiction.

The annual St. Louis International Film festival is a presentation of Cinema St. Louis, which hosts a number of other film events throughout the year. Unlike recent years, the 2006 festival will use several venues for the films, so you will need to note the place as well as the time and date a film is showing.

Many films are shown twice, to help you see as many as possible, but a few are only offered once. The whole schedule and list of films and events, along with descriptions, ticket prices, times and venues, is available at the Cinema St. Louis website at <http://cinemastlouis.org>. Go to their site and click on the St. Louis International Film Festival link.

However, the St. Louis International

Film Festival is too big to cover in just one article, so we will take a look at some of the highlights of the first half of SLIFF this week, Nov. 9 to Nov. 14, and look at the second half of the fest next week.

Before we highlight some of the must-see films of the festival, let us look at some special events.

"Evening of Jewish Cinema," scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 14 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, is one of the special events of the festival. The evening offers a rare look back in time to Jewish life in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The restored silent film "Judith Simon" will be presented with live musical accompaniment, with a score composed by Dr. Barbara Harbach, professor of music at UM-St. Louis. The program also features the documentary "Howling with the Angels," with director Jean Bodon in attendance to talk about his film his father's role as a WWII Czech-Jewish resistance fighter. The evening's program will also include the short film "My Dear Kassa." The event is free.

SLIFF will kick off with a gala at the Moolah Theater, on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m., featuring a screening of the documentary "Mr. Mayor" about two-time St. Louis mayor A.J. Cervantes, produced by the mayor's son. Tickets are \$25 to \$75.

Among the special events in the first half of the festival is a showing of the director's cut of "Bad Santa." Director Terry Zwigoff will attend the Saturday night screening at the Tivoli. Zwigoff fans know his connections to comic art, and Zwigoff will also participate in a book and DVD signing, with artists Tom Huck and Dan Zettwoch and "Blab" editor Monte Beauchamp, on Saturday afternoon at comic/anime store Star Clipper on Delmar.

Besides "Judith Simon" at the Touhill, another silent film that will screen at the first half of the festival is a restored copy of the Italian historical drama "Cabiria," one of the earliest fea-



- Films will be shown at the Tivoli Theater, Plaza Frontenac, Webster University, the St. Louis Art Museum and UM-St. Louis.
- Prices for tickets range from \$8-75 for specific events.
- Countries represented include Brazil, England and the United States.
- For more information, check out www.cinemastlouis.org

ture films, presented on Sunday at the St. Louis Art Museum with live musical accompaniment.

"Gimme Truth" is a game-show like event presented in conjunction with the True/False Documentary Film Festival, in Columbia, Mo., and KDHX-TV. On Sunday at noon at the Tivoli, the "Gimme Truth" game show features short films that are either totally true documentaries or completely false mockumentaries. Can you tell which is which?

Among the feature film highlights in the first half of the festival are several features by renowned filmmakers, award-winners at previous festivals, critically acclaimed international and indie films, and first screenings of major year-end releases.

On Friday, Nov. 10, Claude Chabrol's "A Comedy Of Power," a French legal drama starring Isabelle Huppert, and Roger Michell's "Venus," a funny British tale of an older man and a younger woman starring Peter O'Toole, are shown. Award-winners and critic favorites "Dreaming of Space," a

Russian romance set in the era of Sputnik, and "Severance," a British future cult film

blend of dark comedy and a slasher film, set for a midnight screening, are both offered on Friday.

Saturday, Nov. 11, highlights include award-winner "Son Of Man" a South African musical reinterpretation of the life of Christ, and Patrice Chereau's "Gabrielle," a French historical film based on Joseph Conrad's "The Return," starring Isabelle Huppert.

Feature films to catch on Sunday, Nov. 12, include the Thai "Invisible Waves," a dark humor thriller in English, Japanese and Mandarin, from talented two-time SLIFF director Pen-ek Ratanaruang (the clever and violent "Sixtynin9" and "Monrak Transistor").

On Monday, Nov. 13, don't miss "Requiem," an emotional German drama of faith versus family, based on the same true-life events as "The Exorcism of Emily Rose."

Documentary films to see in the first half of the festival include the compelling

"Iraq in Fragments," which looks at the Iraqi situation from the viewpoints of Kurds, Sunnis and Shia.

Another documentary event of note is the Tribute to Charles Guggenheim, the Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker who got his start in St. Louis, on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. There is also a program of Guggenheims' Oscar-winning short films on Saturday at 1 p.m. Both events take place at the Art Museum.

A late addition to the festival is the documentary "Shut Up And Sing," about the Dixie Chicks and the backlash after they criticized George Bush. This documentary is shown Friday afternoon and Saturday night. Australian director Gillian Armstrong's "Unfolding Florence," about the fascinating life, and unsolved murder, of Florence Broadhurst, uses Python-like animation, recreations and interviews to explore an unlikely life.

Next week, we will take a look at some of the special treats of the second half of this year's St. Louis International Film Festival.

CD REVIEW

Ludacris creates hih-hop masterpiece

BY MYRON McNEILL

Opinions Editor

The South is truly reigning supreme in the hip-hop game, and Ludacris has on one of the crowns in this Southern dynasty.

Luda's newest release, "Release Therapy," is a five mic and five-star piece of work. Like he says on the intro "Warning," "gettin' served is like Oprah and Bill Gates goin' broke." He is untouchable on this album.

Ludacris is at the top of his game. He has the rap game at his fingertips, he has a few movies under his belt. In his producer role, his label DTP Records is set to release albums from some of his up and coming artists.

However, "Release Therapy" is his solo joint. This is his fifth album and it resonates with talent. Utilizing the help of other greats, this album features songs that include Jeezy, Field Mob, Bobby Valentino (a DTP artist), R. Kelly, Pimp C, Beanie Sigel and Mary J.

"Money Maker," which is his lead

song, features Pharrell on the chorus. This track is a lobby evacuator, with one destination...the dance floor. It is produced by the Neptunes and the beat is sensual and hypnotizing. This is typically the work of the Neptunes and mixed with Ludacris' witty approach, it becomes an instant classic.

Don't forget that Luda has a compelling and convincing delivery. Also, he is everywhere in the industry and other emcees must realize that "the only reason [they are] on [a] song is because [he] turned it down," like he says on track two, "Grew up a screw up."

The album zips and flows with that southern bounce that is prominent in

music now. It is one-two snap that makes you want to dance or move. The album has fourteen tracks and fans are not to be disappointed by his lyricism and growth.

Like he says on "Girls Gone Wild," "Just figured out I'm ahead of my time/ With a flow so fast I'm ahead of my rhyme/your clock is off beat, betta' set it to mine/ with a six year run havin' a h-ll of a time."

Track number nine is for future or present emcees. Luda said "how you own three cars and don't own your own name." This is one of the bars (out of many) about the industry and artist. On this song, titled "Tell It Like It Is," Luda does exactly what he titled the song: he "tells it like it is."

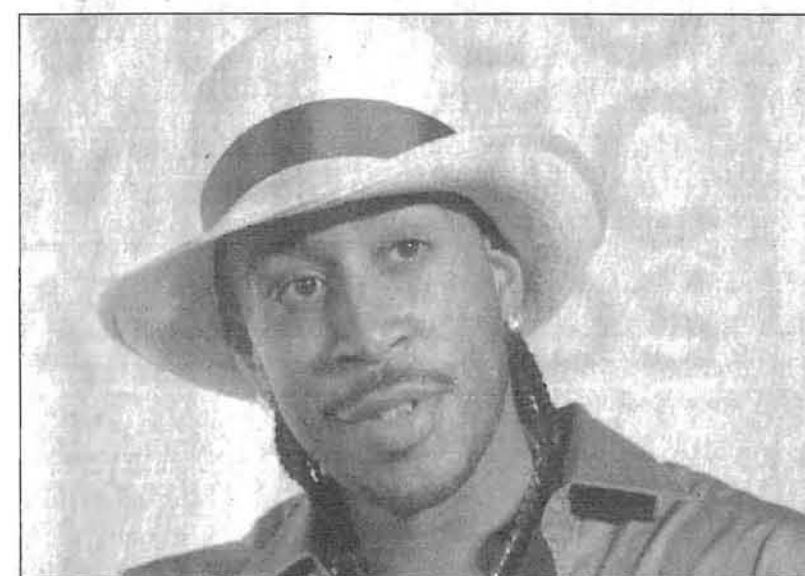
This song is his critique and how to survive manual for artists who wish to be in an industry that appears to be glamorous on the surface, yet is full of pitfalls. It is a survival guide for the naive. And if you really listen to it, you hear not only maxims for survival, you see and hear his growth. In six years, he has come from being an emcee of braggadocio to



Ludacris

"Release Therapy"

★★★★★



Ludacris' new album, "Release Therapy," is a masterpiece of Southern hip-hop.

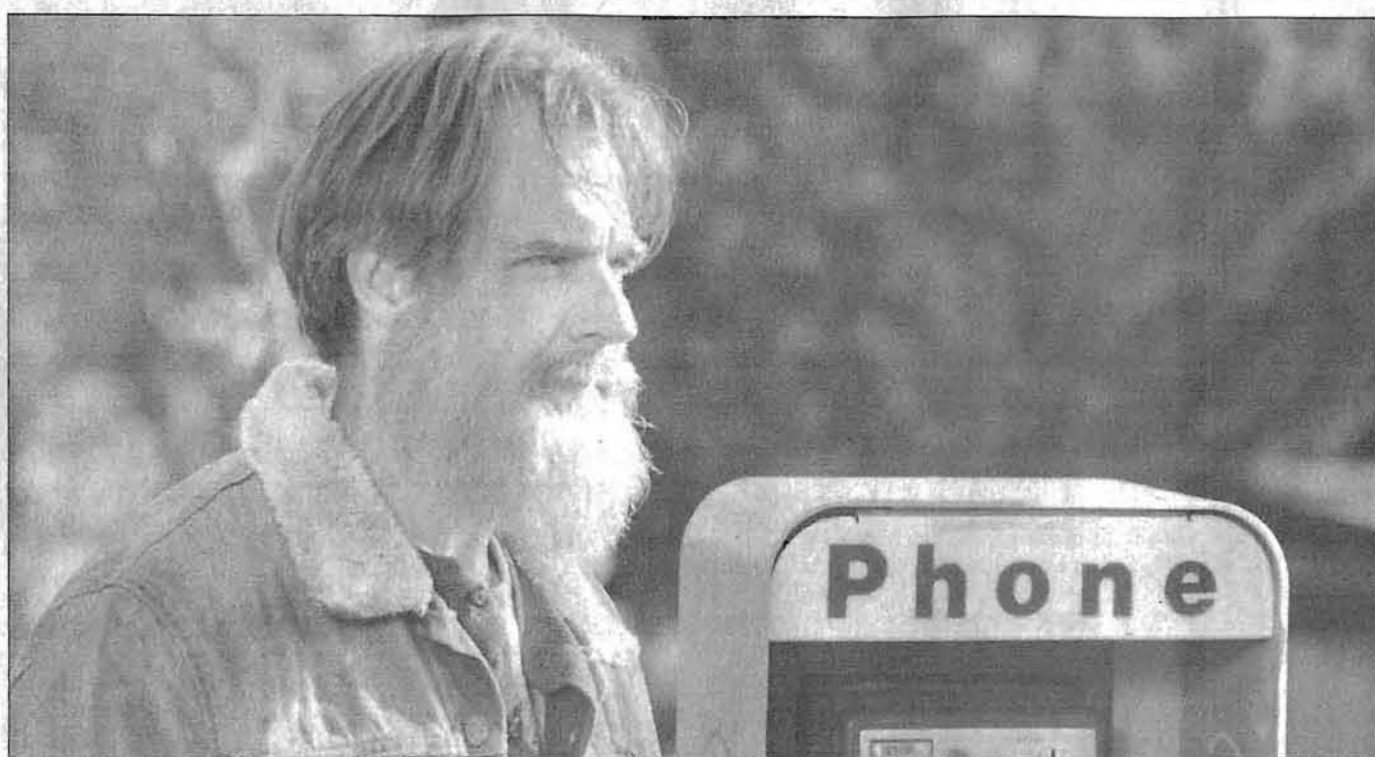
explaining several of the social, economic and spiritual dilemmas that present themselves once an artist enters the music industry.

Finally, you have "War With God," a song about doing the right thing and the dilemmas one faces in trying to do right. And also, there is "Freedom of Preach,"

a song featuring Bishop Eddie Long.

These are attributes of his growth and daring ability to be different. Many artists cannot execute songs with the meaning in today's market but Luda can. This album is a success and it deserves five mics. I give it five stars.

MOVIE REVIEW



Henry Czerny stars as a homeless man experiencing a crisis of faith in Stephen Simon's "Conversations with God."

Photo Courtesy: www.cinephile.com

'Conversations' offers divine message

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

The last few years have seen a growing number of religious or spiritually themed films. Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" comes to mind, but the trend is not limited to Christian films; it includes "Ushpizin," a delightful 2005 film set in the Ultra Orthodox Jewish community in Israel, starred in and written by members of that community, that is part of a trend toward religious and spiritual themes in filmmaking. This week was the opening of "Zen Noir," a sometimes mystical mystery film set in an American Buddhist monastery and filled with Zen Buddhist themes. Most of these new religious themed films, like "Ushpizin" and "Zen Noir," are independent productions but there is growing interest among big studios as well.

Another offering in the realm of spiritual cinema is producer/director Stephen Simon's "Conversations With God," based on Neal Donald Walsch's bestselling book about his own spiritual awakening. The film tells the story of a man so down on his luck that he has become homeless and has asked God for some answers about his up-and-down life. To his surprise, he receives an answer, and turns his conversations with God into a best-selling book that lifts him out of poverty. The film based

on this story, also called "Conversations with God," is now playing at the West Olive Cinema.

"Conversations with God" is a personal story but reflects other spiritual journeys. This film is more spiritual and interfaith than based on one particular belief, although one can clearly see Simon's own Jewish heritage in the story. Simon, whose previous films include "Somewhere In Time" and "What Dreams May Come," grew up in a Hollywood family and has worked in the industry all his life, yet grew frustrated with Hollywood's reluctance to make the kind of uplifting, spiritual films he felt compelled to make.

In "Conversations With God," Neal Donald Walsch, played by Canadian actor Henry Czerny, is a self-absorbed, middle-aged but still handsome ladies-man whose life as a radio DJ falls apart when a neck injury leads to loss of his job and eventually his home.

Broke and with no one left he can call on, Walsch finally finds himself in a campground with other homeless people. From this low point, he goes through a series of personal and professional ups and downs, until in frustration he starts asking God for some answers.

When he receives a divine reply, he starts writing it all down and turns it into a bestselling book. Even with his new-found path to success, Walsch still

has some spiritual traveling to do before he reaches real peace.

Henry Czerny, a handsome, gifted actor with more than a little Shakespeare in his resume, does a fine job in the lead role. The cast that supports him, including Vilma Silva and Bruce Fitch, is generally good as well. While the film has a good message and good intentions, as a piece of filmmaking it lacks the high production values and polish of Simon's previous films. The film's direction is serviceable enough but is rather unimaginative and conventional. A more innovative approach may have gotten more out of the talented cast.

This kind of film is not for everyone but you have to give the filmmakers credit for their sincerity. Although the film is effective enough in getting its story across, it may appeal more to those who are already fans of the author's bestselling book, plus anyone with a taste for this kind of inspirational personal memoir.

Other filmgoers may find the film overly predictable, something hard to avoid in a story of this sort. Too much of this tale seems just about Walsch himself or is otherwise a too familiar, rags-to-riches story about finding spiritual connection that has been oft-told. Doubtlessly, fans of Walsch's books will be pleased to see his story adapted for the screen but those who like their

spiritual stories a bit more universal may find this very individual story a bit disappointing.

To the film's credit, it does keep its spiritual message more interfaith, and people of various religions can find something that resonates for them. We see Walsch in churches from time to time but very specific references to particular religions are absent. The most obvious influences are Jewish, Buddhist, and Christian ones but the focus is on where spiritual traditions overlap, rather than diverge, which is refreshing and, well, inspiring.

Clearly, there is an audience looking for the kind of lift they get from a real-life story about one man's tale of spiritual awakening. The growing overall interest in spiritual and religious-themed films generally should also give this movie a boost.

Author Walsch resisted the idea of turning his best-selling book into a movie and producer/director Stephen Simon worked for years to get him to agree to the idea and then get the film made.

The film is part of Simon's spiritual film subscription series but it is the first in that series released for the big screen rather than directly on DVD. The plan is to release more films of this sort, with a similar interfaith focus, which will be a welcome addition to the spiritual movie mix.

Director's faith evident in his movie making

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Stephen Simon, producer/director of "Conversations With God," now playing at the West Olive Cinema, could not have grown up more immersed in Hollywood.

Simon grew up in a Jewish Hollywood family in the '40s and '50s big studio era. His father was S. Sylvan Simon, a successful producer/director whose films included Abbott and Costello and Red Skelton comedies and the original classic comedy "Born Yesterday."

He was an executive at Columbia Pictures under mogul Harry Cohn and every year American Movie Classics presents a day of his films, in honor of his birthday on March 9.

"Fanny Brice's daughter was my mother's best friend," said Simon, reflecting back on his Hollywood and showbiz childhood during an interview when he visited St. Louis to promote "Conversations With God." Fran Stark was the daughter of Brice and her husband, film producer Ray Stark.

His mother's other close friends were Nancy Reagan and Betsy Bloomingdale. It was not just Hollywood power that surrounded young Stephen.

Simon's father died when he was four but his mother re-married another successful MGM producer, Armand Deutsch.

Deutsch produced such films with Grace Kelly and Robert Taylor. Besides mentoring from family friend Ray Stark, who produced films such as "Funny Girl" and "The Good-Bye Girl," Simon was trained by Dino De Laurentis, a prolific, renowned producer of over 150 movies, including the recent "King Kong."

So it was no surprise that Simon went into the family business, becoming a producer and director even though he went to law school before starting his Hollywood career. His mentor was, as it turned out, Ray Stark.

Hollywood was everywhere in Simon's childhood. "But that was my parents' world," he said of the big studio ear of Hollywood. Simon became a successful producer/director in his

own right, producing such films as the Oscar-winning "What Dreams May Come," which starred Robin Williams. Other Simon productions include "Somewhere In Time," with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour, "All The Right Moves" with Tom Cruise and "Bill And Ted's Excellent Adventure."

Despite his big studio successes, Simon thought there was something missing. He longed for the movie classic era when studios produced spiritually uplifting films like "It's A Wonderful Life" and "Lost Horizons."

Frustrated with the unwillingness of studios to green-light story-based spiritual films like the old classics, Simon left Hollywood and set out to make the kind of film he wanted to see on the big screen.

His newest film, "Conversations with God," is actually part of a series of spiritual films from Simon. Simon launched The Spiritual Cinema Circle with Gay and Kathryn Hendricks as a DVD subscription service that provides four spiritual films a year to subscribers. Simon wrote a book "The Force Is With You: Mystical Movie Messages That Inspire Our Lives," and has worked since 2002 to establish "spiritual cinema" as a genre. With the recent upsurge of spiritual and religious themed films, he seems to have lots of company.

"I have spent the last 20 years working to get three films made," said Simon. "Somewhere In Time," "What Dreams May Come," and "Conversations With God." Simon became a fan of Neale Donald Walsch's bestselling book about his spiritual awakening but it still took years to convince the author to allow the book to be made into a movie.

Simon's films, like most of the other new spiritual and religious themed films, are independent productions. Some big studios are now trying to launch spiritual film divisions, lured by potential profits, but Simon thinks that this will always be the arena of indie films. "I don't think Hollywood is capable of making this kind of film," he said, noting that previous attempts have often rung false. "You had to really have your heart in this and believe in what you are doing to make this kind of film. The audience can tell if you are not sincere."

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Photo Credit: Dawn DeBlaze

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

SPORTS

Division I SLU shuts down UMSL teams



Courtney Watts races down the floor of the Scottrade Center Friday in a preseason game against St. Louis University.



Jennifer Martin shoots during the second half of the Riverwomen's game against SLU on Friday night at the Scottrade Center. Martin led the team with 17 points, but the Riverwomen still came up short against NCAA Division I team SLU, losing 81-63.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Joslyn Brown

In the opening GLVC tournament game against Rockhurst, Brown made an impressive 22 digs, a team high. Brown, a sophomore and the team's libero, is originally from Plainfield, Ill.

Brown played in all 105 games this season, had 452 digs, an average of 4.3 per game.

STATS CORNER

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Box scores:

Exhibition Games

November 1	1	2	F
Illinois State (W)	38	45	83
UM-St. Louis	30	28	58

UMSL points: Ledbetter: 18; Slaten: 12; Ward: 6; Boateng, Whittaker: 5; Hawkins, DeChellis: 4; Kliethermes, Jackson: 2.

November 3

SLU (W)	43	41	84
UM-St. Louis	20	30	50

UMSL points: Ledbetter: 15; Ward: 11; Slaten: 6; Hawkins: 5; Boateng, Whittaker, Kliethermes: 4; Adams: 1.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Box scores:

Exhibition Games

November 3	1	2	F
SLU (W)	39	42	81
UM-St. Louis	23	40	63

UMSL points: Martin: 17; Watts: 14; Helfrich: 11; White, Gagliano: 6; Alberts: 5; Ricker: 2.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Box scores:

November 2	1	2	3
Rockhurst (W)	30	33	30
UM-St. Louis	25	31	27

Season standings:

Overall: 11-18

Conference: 8-8

STATS CORNER

Men's Basketball

Nov. 15
at Missouri Southern
7 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Nov. 10
at Eastern Illinois (exhib.)
7:35 p.m.

After beating SLU in last year's exhibition game, team falls 81-63

By LAGUAN FUSE
Staff Writer

Last year, the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen defeated the St. Louis Billikens in a basketball exhibition game. This year the same two teams faced off and the result was much different. SLU defeated the Riverwomen 81-63.

The first basket of the game was made by UM-St. Louis' Jennifer Martin with 17:27 left in the half. SLU answered right back with a goal by Rachel Diener. Taylor Gagliano hit a 3-pointer with 16:29 left in the half, moving the Riverwomen up by three, the largest lead the team would have all game.

With 14:42 left in the half, SLU's Katie Paganelli scored a lay up which was the first goal in SLU's on a 9-0 run. UM-St. Louis was not able to regroup and SLU held on to the lead for the rest of the half.

The highest point differential came after a fast break lay up by Diener to put SLU up by 18. Amanda Miller made the last shot of the half for the Riverwomen bring the score at the half to 39-23 in favor of SLU.

During the first half of the game, the Riverwomen made only 29.6 percent of their shots. However, during the second half they improved their shot percentage to 54.2.

The Riverwomen shot 8-27 from the field and only managed three steals.

At the end of the first half the Riverwomen trailed the Billikens 39-23. Both teams were even in turnovers at the end of the half with 18.

During the second half, UM-St. Louis

The Current

Visit www.thecurrentonline.com to see a slideshow of images from the UMSL vs. SLU game on Friday night.

tried to close in on the lead but the double digit lead was too much to overcome.

The Riverwomen scored 40 points during the second half and SLU scored 42. Despite the fact that SLU only outscored UM-St. Louis by two points during the second half, the damage done in the first half sealed the game.

The highest point differential during the second half was 29 points. UM-St. Louis ended the game on an 11-0 run started by two free throws by Courtney Watts and then two more by Kristi White.

The Riverwomen finished the game shooting 41.2 percent and 33.3 percent from behind the arc. They managed to get a higher shot percentage than SLU during the second half. The Riverwomen shot 54.2 percent and the Billikens shot 38.1 percent.

"I'm kinda disappointed in the way we played," said Head Coach Lee Buchanan. "SLU is a very good basketball team; they've done a nice job. They hurt us in a lot of different ways, but we hurt ourselves in a lot of different ways in not doing a lot of the fundamental things we've been working the last few weeks. That part is disappointing."

The Riverwomen had more assists during the game than the Billikens. UM-St. Louis finished the game with 16 total

assists and SLU finished with 14.

SLU was able to out-rebound UM-St. Louis 47-23. The Riverwomen finished with 32 rebounds, 23 of which were defensive.

Martin went 7-9 from the field and 3-5 from the free throw line giving her the team high 17 points for the game. Martin also grabbed three rebounds and had five

personal fouls.

Gagliano was a perfect 2-2 from behind the 3-point arc.

Watts played 33 minutes of the game, more than any player on either team, and ended the game with 14 points and four assists. Watts also shot 7-8 from the free throw line.

White also found success at the free

throw line going 4-4 against SLU.

"We're still 0-0 and we have to take what we've learned from this and apply it to practice so that this does not happen again," said Buchanan.

The Riverwomen's next game is an exhibition game on November 10 at Eastern Illinois. The home opener is on November 21 against McKendree.

Division II Rivermen get a preseason workout at Scottrade Center vs. SLU

By LAGUAN FUSE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team faced off in an exhibition game against St. Louis University on Friday night. Fans crowded into the Scottrade Center to see the Division-I Billikens against the Division-II Rivermen.

SLU won the game 84-50.

SLU started the game on an 11-0 run started by a 3-pointer by Billikens' guard Kevin Lisch. Octavious Hawkins scored the first points for the Rivermen, but the Billikens scored six more points before UM-St. Louis could close in on the lead.

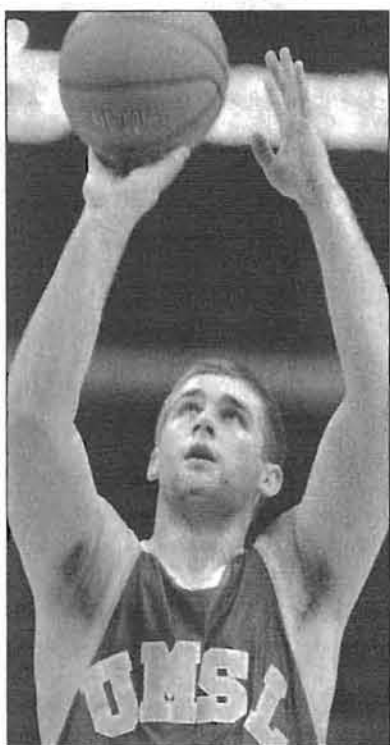
The Rivermen battled hard on rebounds but most shots went in-and-out. SLU went into the second half leading 43-20.

"They just got a jump on us the first half," said Paul De Chellis. We put ourselves in a hole and came out in the second half and played a lot better."

SLU maintained the lead throughout the second half. UM-St. Louis changed their gameplan during the second half, shooting mainly 3-pointers. Sixteen of the Rivermen's 24 shots were from behind the arc.

The Rivermen were cold from the field shooting 8-31 (25.8%) in the first half and 8-24 (33.3%) in the second half. Free throws didn't seem to drop either for the Rivermen as the team shot 11-24 from the line.

Brett Ledbetter worked on his 3-pointers during the exhibition game. Ledbetter shot 5-11 in the game, all 3-



David Ward scored 11 points against SLU on Friday night.

pointers.

"That's his game," said assistant coach Chico Jones. "We're expecting that out of him as well as getting a little more intensity defensive wise."

The Rivermen were able to contain SLU's 7-foot center, Bryce Husak. Husak shot 1-4 from the field and managed only six rebounds.

"UMSL is a great team. I think they

did a real awesome job," said Husak. "They played hard. This is a big game for them, a big game for us and they wanted to prove something to us. I think they did an awesome job."

"I thought the second half was a lot better than the first," said assistant coach Deryn Carter. "We competed a little harder in the second half. We wish we would have showed ourselves a little bit better."

David ward finished the game with 11 points and nine rebounds.

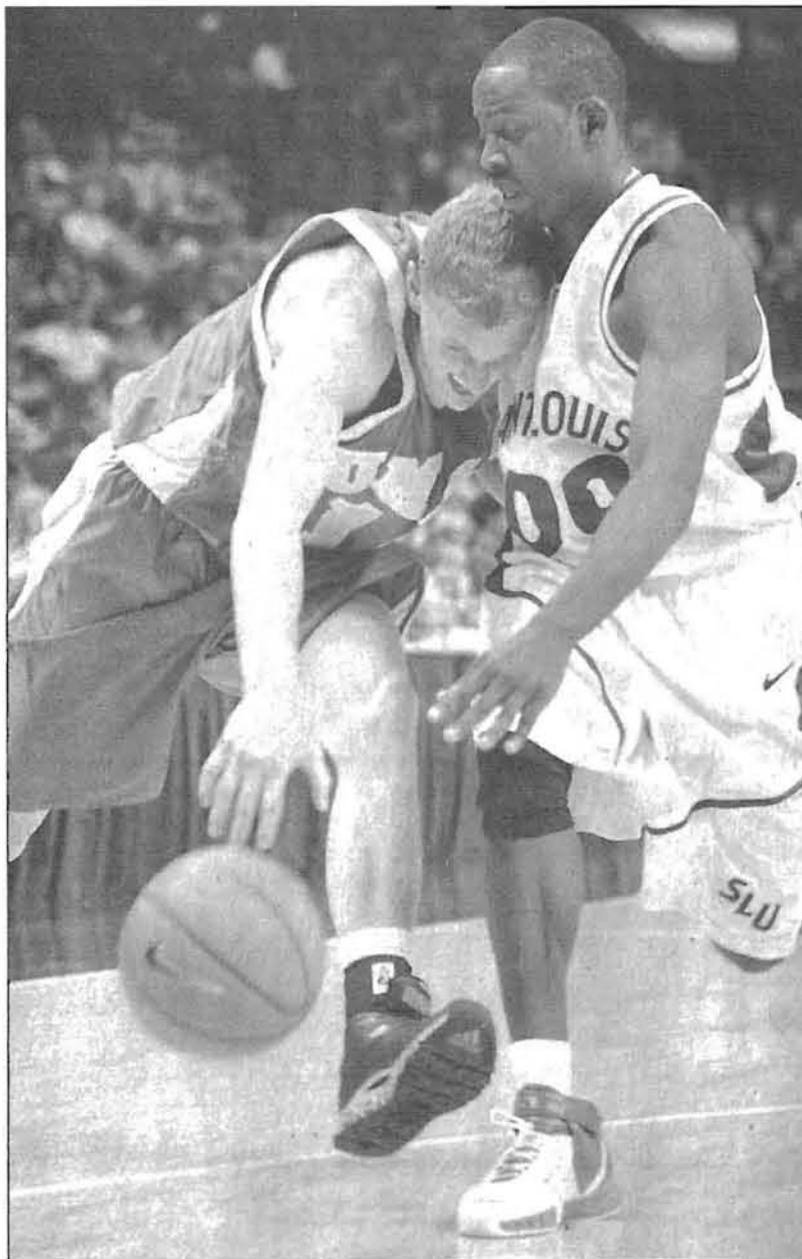
Octavious Hawkins finished the game with nine rebounds and five points.

UM-St. Louis was able to out-rebound SLU for most of the game. At the end of the first half, the Rivermen had 24 rebounds and the Billikens had 20. By the end of the game, SLU came back and boxed out UM-St. Louis for a game total of 43. The Rivermen were able to stay close with 41 rebounds for the game.

"Rebounding is a big part of the game," said De Chellis. "And if we can do it against a team like this who has a 7-footer and a 6'10" guy and the average height is bigger than us we are looking pretty good in that department."

"Guys who win rebound battles generally win the game," said Carter. "We are going to work on it, just boxing out and it's going to be something we'll address everyday in practice."

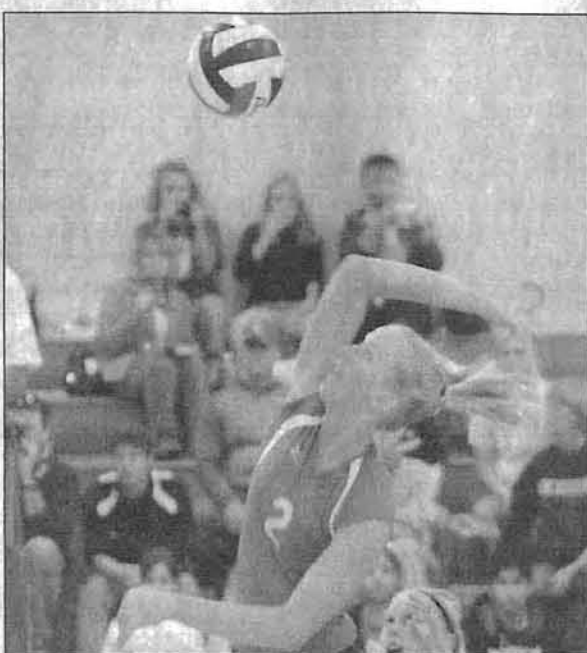
The Rivermen's next game is an exhibition game on Nov. 15 at Missouri Southern. The home opener is on Nov. 21 against Harris Stowe.



Senior forward Brett Ledbetter fights to get past SLU's defense on Friday night at the Scottrade Center. Ledbetter led the Rivermen with 15 points during the game.

RIGHT:

Sophomore middle hitter Chelsea Baumstark had 100 kills over the season. The Riverwomen ended their postseason on Thursday with a loss against Rockhurst in the first round of the GLVC tournament.



Rockhurst ends volleyball team's postseason hopes

BY JARED ANDERSON

Staff Writer

The number seven seed Riverwomen took on number two seed Rockhurst Hawks at SIU-Edwardsville on Thursday. The Riverwomen were defeated in three straight games, 30-25, 33-31, 30-27.

The first game found both teams desperately trying to gain the momentum. Late in the game the score was 25-20 in Rockhurst's favor.

Every point would be fought for, but the Riverwomen would lose the first game 30-25.

The second game would be fought like the first, with a battle for each point.

The game would be tied at 8-8 and then the Riverwomen went on fire and expanded their lead by five, leaving the score 10-5 by the first timeout. By the second timeout, The Riverwomen would lead 20-14 with commanding momentum.

The lead would not last forever, though, as the Hawks had cut lead to five by the third timeout.

The tide seemed to change back and forth as the teams battled. In the Final Points the score would be tied three times before the Hawks capitalized and took the match 33-31.

The down-but-not-out Riverwomen entered the third game like they had the other two: with both feet forward. They would draw first blood

but would not have the lead the rest of the game as they fiercely tried to battle back against the Hawks.

The most the Riverwomen were down was six points in the game. They fought to make the score close at 25-24 but were soon beaten 30-27.

Christy Trame who was named Second Team All-Conference Selection had 15 kills and five blocks with one hit that knocked a Rockhurst player to the ground. Trame also recorded four service aces.

Setter Lisa Brinker, who has been excellent all season long, had 43 assists in the game as she fueled the offense. Both Claudia Medina and Erin Denton combined for sixteen kills and two service aces.

Libero Joslyn Brown had 22 digs for the Riverwomen. Freshman Lauren Hampton had 14 kills and 2 defensive digs.

Coach Josh Lauer said he knew they had a tough opponent in Rockhurst, but that he was proud that his team had come out every game and played their "guts" out.

He noted that the tide seemed to change after the second game's slip by the Riverwomen but that they never gave up and fought for every point.

Lauer was happy to say that they would only be losing one player this year, and that the taste of the playoffs this year is bound to fuel the players' appetite for next year.

Tip-off speaker: Gym floor will be ready for homeopener

BY LAQUAN FUSE

Staff Writer

The seventh annual tip-off luncheon was held on Tuesday, Oct. 31 in the Millennium Student Center. The purpose of the luncheon was to introduce to campus to the men and women of the UM-St. Louis basketball programs.

The tip-off luncheon began with Rick Gyllenborg addressing the damage done to the Mark Twain Building after the storm that hit St. Louis this past July. Due to the damage caused by the storm, the entire gym floor needed to be replaced.

"There are 40 years of basketball history at this University, 35 years were played on that floor," said Gyllenborg.

Gyllenborg also said the past will be remembered by documenting photos and by selling pieces of the old gym floor. Samples of how the floor will be sold were presented at the luncheon. Six inch pieces of the floor will be sold for \$50 and for \$75 a commemorative UM-St. Louis pen is included. The proceeds of the floor

will be donated to different areas of athletics.

"As this year's teams enters the 2006-07 season and move toward the future, they cannot be expected to do it alone," said Gyllenborg. "It will take everyone in this room and many others who are not here. It will take the continued support from the alumni constitute relations. It will take continued support from administration and faculty and student body. Together we must remember the past, finish building the new foundation and move toward the future."

This event was the first of the year that reached out to alumni and community members in an attempt to bring more support to the men's and women's basketball programs.

"This event really opened the doors to see how much support we have in the community and at UMSL," said Riverwoman Alisa Ndongoro.

The master of ceremony for the luncheon was an UM-St. Louis alumni member, Marty Hendon. Hendon was inducted into the UM-St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 for his many years of dedication to the ath-

letic department. Hendon is currently the chair of the Red and Gold Club as well as vice president for community relations for the St. Louis Cardinals. Hendon is also a former sports editor with *The Current*.

Hendon brought attention to the fact that a majority of players on the men's and women's teams are from "Cardinal Country, which would also be UMSL Country, which is Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana."

The women's roster has 11 players from the local area but no players from within Missouri. The men's roster has eight players from the area, seven of which are from Missouri.

"I think both coaches are doing this the right way for this institution," said Hendon.

Both the men's and women's teams were introduced at the luncheon with a major focus on looking toward the future.

Men's basketball head Coach Chris Pilz said that his first phase for UM-St. Louis basketball was to change the attitude and perception about the program. The second phase is for student-athletes to "go to class, study, get a degree, represent the

University in a first-class manner and play winning basketball."

Athletic Director Pat Dolan made a major announcement when she unveiled the new design for the new gym floor and announced the new floor will be dedication to former UM St. Louis head basketball coach and hall of fame member, Chuck Smith. Smith was unable to attend the luncheon but the official floor dedication ceremony will be held on Nov. 30.

Smith was the first basketball coach for UM-St. Louis and also the first athletic director for the University. Smith coached the men's basketball team for 13 years.

Dolan concluded her comments by saying, "welcome to UMSL basketball. We're hoping that the basketball seasons will take off as did the fall sports. Lots of times fall sports and athletics is just a catalyst for the school year, catalyst for the athletic programs and we look forward to the upcoming basketball season."

Construction on the gym floor in the Mark Twain building is ongoing. The floor is scheduled to be ready for both teams home opener on Nov. 21.

SHORT FUSE

After the Cards' World Series win, I say: Go Yankees!

I can't believe it. I know this has to be some weird trick. Since the Cardinals won the World Series, I've been eating my words. And guess what, they taste sweet!

Didn't Japan win the World Baseball Classic back in March? So aren't they the "world" champions. That means that the Cardinals are the Continental United States and one Canadian Team Champions.

Major League Baseball hosts the World Series so I'll just call the Cardinals the MLB World Champions.

This is the first time in my life the Cardinals became MLB World Champions and what's the first thing I heard after the last out in the game? Gunshots, I heard lots and lots of gunshots.

I'm not too sure why people choose to unload firearms to show happiness during a celebration, but they do. No wonder everyone thinks

this city is so violent. Even in times of joy somebody's unloading a clip.

I couldn't believe when the Tigers beat the Yankees. This was supposed to be the year the Yankees reclaimed their title. Instead the Cardinals are one step closer to catching the Yankees for most MLB World Championships.

I try my best not to be hypocritical, so if the Cardinals' championship only covers the continental United States and one Canadian team, I guess that goes for the Yankees too. Wait, there used to be two Canadian teams, so that's closer to being the world. Isn't it?

When the Cardinals played the Red Sox back in 2004 I almost gave



BY LAQUAN FUSE

Staff Writer

up on baseball. For the first time I didn't care who won the championship. I couldn't cheer for the Cardinals just because they were playing the Red Sox and there was no way I was going to cheer for the Red Sox, so I just stopped watching baseball for that season.

There are so many more interesting things to watch on television when the Cardinals are playing in the World Series and this year a lot of people felt the same way.

This year's World Series pulled in a record low in TV ratings. So I'm not the only person in the country who found better prime time programming.

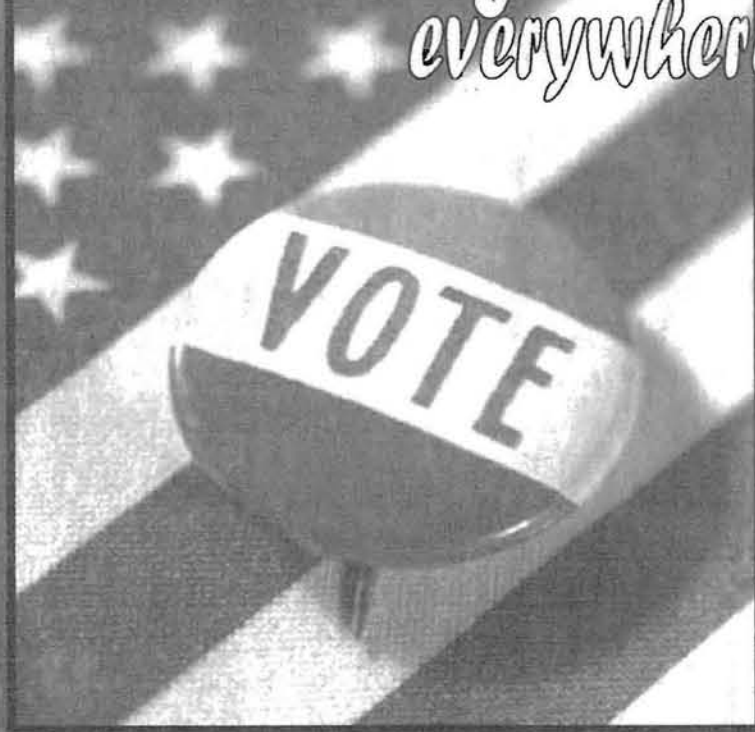
I think I jinxed myself by going to

a Cardinals game this season. I'll admit I wanted to see the new stadium and I was pleasantly surprised. That's it! It has to be something with the new stadium.

Maybe the walls lowered when Pujols came up to bat, or the lights brightened to prevent other teams from catching fly balls. Any excuse will work, and so far that's the best I came up with.

I am going to do something totally out of character and congratulate the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the World Series. I didn't want it to happen, but it did. I'm not too sure how or why it happened, but it did. Cardinals' fans should enjoy this off season because in a few months spring training starts and the Cardinals will be pressured to repeat. I can't say it won't happen, because this World Series proved anything could happen. I guess we all have to wait and see. Go Yankees!

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"Oktoberfunk IV part six: Epilogue is a funny word"

"Nut'n But the Funk" is drawn by Current cartoonist Rudy Scoggins.

SCONEBOROUGH

by E. Gearhart

"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart.

SYNDICATED CARTOONS

he-ro (hēr'ō) *n.*

1. a person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life.

DO YOU EVER WISH SOME AMERICANS WOULD REDIRECT THEIR ANGER TOWARD REAL ENEMIES LIKE AL-QAIDA, IRAN, NORTH KOREA, SYRIA...

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

Who

Who

Or is it whom?

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Auction action

4 Urban fleet

9 Agent, for short

12 Brouhaha

13 "Tosca" or "Turandot"

14 Buy now, pay later

15 Julius or Ethel of WWII spydom

17 Shark's venue

18 Russian spacecraft

19 Lascivious lookers

21 Ring around the sun

24 Paper quantity

25 Past

26 Showbiz job

28 Eugene O'Neill's genre

31 For fear that

33 Water barrier

35 Sketch

36 Mini-plateaus

38 "Phooey!"

40 Unhealthy

41 Mid-March date

43 Dan Brown's output

45 Bob Dole, for one

47 "How - love thee?"

48 Black cuckoo

8 Drooped

9 Longtime

10 "Hollywood Squares"

11 celeb

12 Basin

13 accessory

14 Look-alikes, in an idiom

15 Comedian Phillips

16 Fat

17 Serene

18 Curved

19 molding

20 In the style of "The Barber of Seville"

21 composer

22 Chatter away

23 Shopping center

24 Puncturing tools

25 Tiny amounts

26 Authoritative command

27 Quest

28 1978 Burt Reynolds movie

29 Sleep soundly?

30 Through

31 Crushing blow

32 From the beginning

33 Carpentry tool

34 Baseball stat

35 Tease

36 "Help!"

DOWN

1 Tavern

2 Wedding response

3 Two, in Tijuana

4 Creating a fillet

5 Reproach

6 Witness

7 Mistake

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			4	5		8		
	9			3		1		2
	7	6			2		4	
3			5	7			2	
	5				8	3		4
7		4			1		8	
	1		2	8				6
6		3	7				5	
		8			3	7		9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Find the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and Sudoku at

The Current
online.com



MAXIMO PREDICTS

Horoscopes for Nov. 6 - Nov. 12

Aries
March 21-April 19

I cannot believe you fall for my lies every week! You are so dumb you probably dont even vote. In fact, shut up.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Remember when Ford made the Ford Taurus? I think it is time for you to discontinue.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

When Han Solo found out that Luke was Leia's sister he was so happy. "Return of the Jedi" rocks!! Just because you like snowspeeders is not a good reason to like "The Empire Strikes Back."

Cancer
June 22-July 22

It is winter now. You can stop wearing your sick jean shorts and take off those sandals. You are not in Hawaii, mmkay.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

He he, hey Beavis, why does the person reading this suck. Yeah, yeah, you said suck. Yeah. Fire.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

So, my magical cape is getting worn down and I need a new one. This girl calls and says "there is a huge sale at JC Penney, you should go." So, I go. I look around for hours for my size, but nooo, they only have size skinny! If you are size skinny, I hate you.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

I know I despise you filthy Librans, but I'll spare you this week because the Cardinals won the World Series. Okay, I am still happy that they won. Yay, spring training in February!

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Hey, you like telling me what to do, don't you. Yeah, you like that. Momma said knock you out! I'm gonna knock you out!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

When you were a child and you played with dolls, every-one thought you were cute. Now you are ugly.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Can you believe it? It is almost Thanksgiving!! Turkey, gravy, greenbeans, stuffing. Oh yes, I didn't forget the corn!

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Your mom sounded like Jaba the Hut last night.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

In order to properly hook a worm you must hold the worm between the index finger and thumb. Take the hook and...

DISCLAIMER:
Maximo Predicts is really not that funny. It is not real, and in no way does Maximo really believe anything he says. Maximo is actually a liar and he should not be trusted. He is armed and dangerous. It has been reported that he has taken Justin Timberlakes sexy back from him. So if you are found in a weird position with Maximo, make sure you have earplugs and some damntastic dance moves. Maximo used to be a dancer for MC Hammer. 2 legit, 2 legit to quit.

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THE UMSL SINCE 1966 STUDENT NEWSPAPER

CARDINALS, from page 4

Now name legendary baseball players. Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Cy Young, Stan Musial, Roberto Clemente, Jackie Robinson, Lou Gehrig, Rogers Hornsby, Honus Wagner, Ty Cobb, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock. The list continues, just from memory. They are America's gladiators. Our Hercules, Zeus, Apollo, Poseidon.

In the classic film of baseball adoration, "Field of Dreams," James Earl Jones makes an epic speech describing why baseball is America's pastime. He ends by saying: "This field, this game: it's a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good and it could be again." It is true. Baseball harkens us back to a time when we were children, when we watched as our own heroes, be they Willie McGee, John Tudor, Mike

Schmidt, Nolan Ryan or a "has been" with bad knees like Kirk Gibson who comes on to win the game with a dramatic homerun.

If you build it, he will come. The end of "Field of Dreams" is the great summarization of baseball, the bond that it builds. Kevin Costner is reunited with his father (a ghost, I know, but touching nonetheless). Instead of digging up old hurts and past problems, Costner and his father, played by Dwier Brown, have a catch.

It's a beautiful thing that always gets me. Having a catch, it's great. With friends or your father or brother, it's fun. Pretend to be Sandy Koufax or Dizzy Dean, it's okay. That is why baseball is there. For a connection. Hey Mike, Adam, let's go play some 52. If you build it, they will come....

STEM CELLS, from page 5

There are still some facilities that are conducting the legal research and don't demand public money. It's also telling to me that of all the celebrities demanding that we directly fund this research, they're not putting money up themselves. At the very least this suggests to me that they think this might have some potential to help them, but see that the potential is very, very small, and don't want to waste their own money. OK, so we're being misled about the intelligence and views of religious people and opponents of this measure. We're being misled about the viability of other types of research. We're maybe even being misled about what the proponents of this bill think it's potential is. But the deliberate misleading is far from done. This bill isn't about protecting our access to cures. If cures are indeed found, everyone will have

access to them. To believe otherwise is simply silly. Embryonic stem cell research is legal. And while some want to limit it, those limits are slight and actually no stricter than the brief on this bill claims it's restrictions are. There is no concerted effort to make this research illegal. So what is this bill about? One word: money. Embryonic stem cell research is not very promising in the eyes of most businesses, and they're struggling for funding. If they can't get money, they'll have to (heaven forbid) go back to the drawing board and think of something else, or at the very least put this on the back burner for awhile until the technology is there to better study it. And for this they want us to sign a blank check and fund them into infinity with no accountability on research that may never lead anywhere. And even if we find that it'll

lead absolutely nowhere, the only way to even limit funding is to remove the amendment. A yes vote on Amendment 2 is your signature on the bottom of a blank check to an industry that will never tire of coming back with an open hand and greasing their palms with your money. There are plenty of reasons to vote no on the Stem Cell Initiative, and there are plenty of good ones that don't even deal with religious or moral reasons. But they're just hoping that this November, the voters will be swayed by rhetoric and will be too full of sympathy to read the three pages of fine print, and just take their word that all the lame will walk again and there will be no more disease. So feel free to vote yes on Amendment 2, but don't be surprised if you can't find your wallet the next day, and nothing to show for it.

MACHINES, from page 5

There are some problems with the Optiscan voting systems as well, but not nearly as many as with the touch screen machines.

Proponents of the touch screen machines try to imply that the paper audit trail they reluctantly added is a sufficient substitute for a paper ballot, but computer experts will tell you this is not so.

Dr. Aviel Rubin is among the computer scientists who see real problems with electronic voting.

Dr. Rubin is a researcher and professor in computer science at Johns Hopkins University who is a specialist in system security.

He is also technical director of the Information Security Institute at Johns Hopkins.

He raised some serious questions about electronic voting after seeing some of the programming code that runs Diebold voting machines.

Among the concerns are that the programming code that runs the machine is secret and not open to public inspection.

We take the word of the company that the program works properly and we do not really know how they work.

If there were a bug or glitch, the company has no incentive to reveal the problem.

Writing a programming code that keeps an internal count of 1 for vote A but 2 for vote B, yet shows 1 for A and 1 for B on a screen, or printed audit trail, is very easy to write.

It is also easy to write a program that changes votes.

Neither of these can be detected if there is no separate paper ballot.

Dr. Rubin believes the problems that have already come up in other elections in other states are sufficient to make election commissioners and citizens reluctant to use these machines.

Issues he has raised about the machines include that the voting machines companies themselves do the testing of the voting systems for the government by hiring a testing company of their choice.

The standards for certification focus on the durability of the machine and the testing does not include examination of the code that operates the machine for accuracy.

The election commission that certifies the machines has no computer security analysts.

Votes are recorded on a removable card, like a digital camera, and there is no way to tell if the code or votes have been tampered. There is no real way to do a recount with electronic voting.

Thankfully there is a solution. Optiscan machines, which scan a paper ballot list test scoring machines, are one answer.

Another answer is to have touch screen machines produce a paper ballot printout, which is verified by the voter and then put in a ballot box if a recount is needed.

Many states that purchased these paperless voting machines have since had to add paper ballots over concerns about the accuracy of the vote counting and the issue of recounts.

No matter what your political party, you should want your vote to be accurately counted. Democracy depends on having reliable, honest and accurate voting as much as the secret ballot.

There are, of course, other issues with the manufacturers of electronic voting machines and contributions and allegiances to a particular party.

Opening the door to inaccurate vote totals, whether due to an unintended computer glitch or deliberate vote fraud, is foolish and reckless.

Electronic voting machines that do not produce a paper ballot make both possibilities far too easy.

The Republicans backed bills requiring voter identification because they were concerned that vote fraud might occur if some poor, old ladies voted more than once.

In the past elections, bigger vote fraud worries have focused on the handling of ballot boxes and who was counting the votes.

Remember Joseph Stalin said, "It doesn't matter who cast the ballots. What matters is who counts the ballots."

Make sure they count your vote as you cast it.

If you want to learn more about the problems with electronic voting, you might want to check out the HBO documentary "Hacking Democracy," which was shown on Nov. 2, or read Dr. Rubin's book "Brave New Ballot."

An informed citizenry is the best defense for a democracy, so get informed before you vote.

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